

Forgotten tools of probability theory

Cumulants

Probability space

Kolmogorov probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$

Conditional expectation

$$\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{F} \quad \mathcal{H}\text{-algebra}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X | \mathcal{H}) \leftarrow \mathcal{H}\text{-measurable function}$$

$$\uparrow \mathcal{F}\text{-measurable function}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \int_H \mathbb{E}(X | \mathcal{H}) \, d\mathbb{P} = \int_H X \, d\mathbb{P} \quad \text{for each } H \in \mathcal{H}$$

Algebraic viewpoint on probability

(Non)commutative probability space

Example

$$\mathcal{A} = L^{\infty}(\Omega), \quad \mathbb{E}: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

random variables with all
moments finite

expected value

general commutative unital algebra $\mathcal{A}$

$$\mathbb{E}: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \text{linear map} \quad \mathbb{E}1 = 1$$

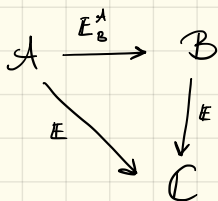
Conditional expectation

Example.

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{L}^{\infty}(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$$

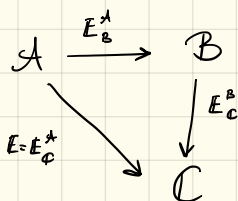
$$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{L}^{\infty}(\Omega, \mathcal{G})$$

$$\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$$



$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}_B^A(a) b) = \mathbb{E}(a b)$$

General case:



three unital algebras,
three unital maps
no further assumptions.

Key examples.

Starting point:

$\rho: S_n \rightarrow \text{End } V$ (reducible) representation of S_n

$$V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \underbrace{m^\lambda}_{\in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}} V^\lambda$$

multiplicity

Character $\chi: S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\chi(\pi) = \text{tr } \rho(\pi) = \frac{\text{Tr } \rho(\pi)}{\dim V}$$

Example 1

Kolmogorov probability space

$\Omega = \sum_n$ Young diagrams with n boxes

$$P_s(\lambda) = \frac{m^\lambda \dim V^\lambda}{\dim V}$$

Non-commutative probability space

$A = C(\sum_n) =$ algebra of functions
 $\{F: \sum_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$

product = pointwise product

$$\mathbb{E} F = \sum_{\lambda \in \sum_n} P_s(\lambda) F(\lambda)$$

Example 2.

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{C}[S_n]$$

center of the symmetric group algebra with the convolution product
(= central functions, class functions)

$$\mathbb{E} f = \text{tr } \rho(f)$$

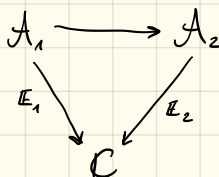
$$\text{Example 2} \cong \text{Example 1}$$

isomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z} \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{S}(n)] \ni f \mapsto \hat{f} \in \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Y}_n]$$

$$\hat{f}(\lambda) := \text{tr } \rho^\lambda(f)$$

isomorphism of algebras
compatible with the
expected value



Homework:
the inverse of this
isomorphism?

→ Lecture 4a Example 1, revisited.
normalized characters of S_n

for a permutation $\pi \in S_n$

and a Young diagram λ , $|\lambda| = n$

$$\chi_\pi(\lambda) = \begin{cases} \underbrace{n(n-1)\dots(n-l+1)}_{l \text{ factors}} & \frac{\text{Tr } \rho_\lambda(\pi)}{\dim V_\lambda} \quad \text{if } l \leq n \\ 0 & \text{if } l > n \end{cases}$$

$= n^l$

philosophy:

$$S_1 \subset S_2 \subset S_3 \subset \dots$$

how to study all symmetric groups
at the same time?

The usual viewpoint: fix irreducible representation λ ,
character $\pi \mapsto \text{Tr } \rho^\lambda(\pi)$
is a function on a group

Dual viewpoint: fix conjugacy class π
character

$$\lambda \mapsto \chi_\pi(\lambda)$$

is a function on Young diagrams.

not a toy case

with our notations

$$A_{\pi} = \sum_{\pi}$$

$$A_2 = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq a, b \leq n, \\ a \neq b}} (a, b) \in \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{S}(n)]$$

random variable Ch_2

$$\mathbb{Y} \ni \lambda \mapsto \text{Ch}_2(\lambda)$$

what is its variance?

$$A_2 \xrightarrow{\text{isomorphism}} \text{Ch}_2$$

$$\text{Ch}_2(\lambda) = \underbrace{|\lambda| \cdot (|\lambda| - 1)}_{\text{in our case } n(n-1)} + \text{tr } e^{\lambda}(\overbrace{(1, 2)}^{\text{transposition}})$$

$$(A_2)^2 = A_{2,2} + 4A_3 + 2A_{1,1}$$

$$\text{Var Ch}_2 = \mathbb{E} \left[(\text{Ch}_2)^2 \right] - (\mathbb{E} \text{Ch}_2)^2 =$$

$$\text{tr } \rho \left[(A_2)^2 \right] - (\text{tr } \rho(A_2))^2 =$$

$$n^4 \text{tr } \rho(2, 2) + 4n^3 \text{tr } \rho(3) + \underbrace{4n^2 \text{tr } \rho(\text{id})}_{=1} - \left(n^2 \text{tr } \rho(2) \right)^2 = ?$$

Moral lesson:

we need more structure.

Partial permutations

Partial permutation of set X is a pair

(π, A)

↑

↑

A - (finite) subset of X
 A is called "support"

ALTERNATIVELY

$$\pi: X \rightarrow X$$

is a bijection s.t.

$$\pi(x) = x \text{ if } x \notin A$$

$$\pi: A \rightarrow A$$

is a bijection

π acts in a non-trivial way
only on ~~the support~~ the
support

<http://google/N72B9>

Reading: Philippe Biane,

"Characters of symmetric groups and free
cumulants"

^{Reed}
Springer Notes in Mathematics 1815 (2003)

Reading:

Ivanov, Kerov,

"The algebra of conjugacy classes ..."

J. Math. Sciences 2001, 175:5,
4212-4230

$$(\pi_1, A_1) \cdot (\pi_2, A_2) = (\pi_1 \pi_2, A_1 \cup A_2)$$

Partial permutations form a semigroup with the unit $(\text{id}, \emptyset)$. $P_n =$ semigroup of partial permutations of $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

* Philosophical remark:

~~any permutation can be~~

if we want to turn a permutation into a partial permutation, we need to decide which of its fix-points should belong to the support.

This might seem silly but it is a source of major headache if we work with ^{the} usual permutations. Partial

permutations remember which of its fix-points are "true fix-points" and which are "cycles of length one".

We shall see very soon that partial permutations are much better than permutations!

In particular, a product of two permutations may contain a lot more fixpoints than the original factors.

Inverse system:

$$\mathbb{C}[P_1] \xleftarrow{r_1} \mathbb{C}[P_2] \xleftarrow{r_2} \mathbb{C}[P_3] \xleftarrow{\quad} \dots$$

P_n = semigroup of partial permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
 $\mathbb{C}[P_n]$ = partial ~~se~~ permutations algebra

$r_k: \mathbb{C}[P_{k+1}] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[P_k]$ is the restriction, r_k is an algebra homomorphism!

$$r_k(\pi, A) = \begin{cases} (\pi, A) & \text{if } A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, k\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Exercise: why if we work with symmetric group algebras $\mathbb{C}[S_n]$ this does not work:

$$\mathbb{C}[S_1] \xleftarrow{\quad} \mathbb{C}[S_2] \xleftarrow{\quad} \dots \quad ?$$

This inverse system is very interesting, but too big for our purposes. We will need only some special elements in it.

$\varprojlim \mathbb{C}[P_n]$ is an algebra where we can study convolution of conjugacy classes in all symmetric groups at the same time

(Normalized) conjugacy classes

For $\pi \in S_k$ we define

$$\sum_{\pi}^{(n)} \in \mathbb{C}[P_n]$$

usually we will not write this!

partial permutations

as

$$\sum_{\pi}^{(n)} = \sum_{\substack{f: \{1, \dots, k\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\} \\ \text{injection}}} \left(\underbrace{f \circ \pi \circ f^{-1}}_{f \circ \pi \circ f^{-1}: A \rightarrow A}, \underbrace{\text{Image of } f}_{A := \text{(support)}} \right)$$

$$\mathbb{C}[P_1] \xleftarrow{r_1} \mathbb{C}[P_2] \xleftarrow{\quad} \dots$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \sum_{\pi}^{(1)} & \xleftarrow{r_1} & \sum_{\pi}^{(2)} \xleftarrow{\quad} \dots \end{array}$$

$$\sum_{\pi} = \lim_{\leftarrow} \sum_{\pi}^{(n)}$$

is a "Platonic object",
a heavenly conjugacy
class described by π .

Example 1

Non-commutative probability space

~~$\mathcal{A} = C(\mathcal{Y}_n) = \text{algebra of functions}$~~
 ~~$\{f: \mathcal{Y}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$~~

product = pointwise product

$$\mathbb{E} F = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{Y}_n} P_\lambda(\lambda) F(\lambda)$$

MORE STRUCTURE!

$$\mathcal{A} = \text{span} \{ Ch_\pi : \pi\text{-partition} \}$$

! Homework: show that (Ch_π) are linearly independent.

product = pointwise product of functions

! Why a product $Ch_{\pi_1} \cdot Ch_{\pi_2}$ is a linear combination of (Ch_π) ?

Hint $\rightarrow$ Example 2.

remains unchanged.

$$\mathbb{E} Ch_\pi = n(n-1)\dots(n-|\pi|+1) \cdot \chi(\pi)$$

Example 2. revisited.

$$\mathcal{A} = \sum \mathbb{C}[S_n]$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \text{span} \left(\sum_{\pi} : \pi \text{ is a partition} \right)$$

$$\mathbb{E} f = \text{tr } \varrho(f)$$

$$f = (f^{(n)}, f^{(n)}, \dots) \text{ element of } \varprojlim$$
$$\mathbb{E} f = \text{tr } \varrho \left(\underset{\uparrow}{f}^{(n)} \right)$$

linear combination of partial permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Hint: ignore support of partial permutations.

→ Lecture 4

⚠ Check that $\sum_{\pi}$ are linear indep.

⚠ Check that a product $\sum_{\pi_1} \cdot \sum_{\pi_2}$ is a linear combination of $(\sum_{\pi})$.

$$\text{Example 2} \cong \text{Example 1}$$

$$\sum_{\pi} \mapsto Ch_{\pi}$$

disjoint product

with our notations

$$A_\pi = \sum_{\pi}$$

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{S}(n)] \supseteq \mathbb{Z}\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{S}(n)]$$

some calculations are simple

no simple calculations

$$(1, 2) \cdot (3, 4) = (1, 2)(3, 4)$$

$$A_2 \cdot A_2 = A_{2,2} + 4A_3 + 2A_{1,1}$$

new disjoint product

$$A_2 \bullet A_2 = A_{2,2},$$

$$A_2 \bullet A_3 = A_{3,2},$$

$$A_{3,2} \bullet A_3 = A_{3,3,2},$$

→ partial permutations of IVANOV & KEROV

Disjoint product of partial permutations.

$$(\pi_1, A_1) \cdot (\pi_2, A_2) = (\pi_1 \pi_2, A_1 \cup A_2) \quad \text{usual product of partial permutations}$$

$$(\pi_1, A_1) \bullet (\pi_2, A_2) = \begin{cases} (\pi_1 \pi_2, A_1 \cup A_2) & \text{if } A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

~~product in $\mathcal{P}_n$~~

product in $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{P}_n]$

product $\bullet$ works nicely with the inverse limits and gives a well-defined product in $\mathcal{A} = \text{span}(\sum_{\pi})$

$$\sum_{\pi_1} \bullet \sum_{\pi_2} = \sum_{\pi_1 \cup \pi_2}$$

Example 3.

$\mathcal{A} = \text{span}(\sum_{\pi} : \pi \text{ is a partition})$
product = disjoint product $\bullet$

$$\mathbb{E} f = \text{tr } g(f)$$

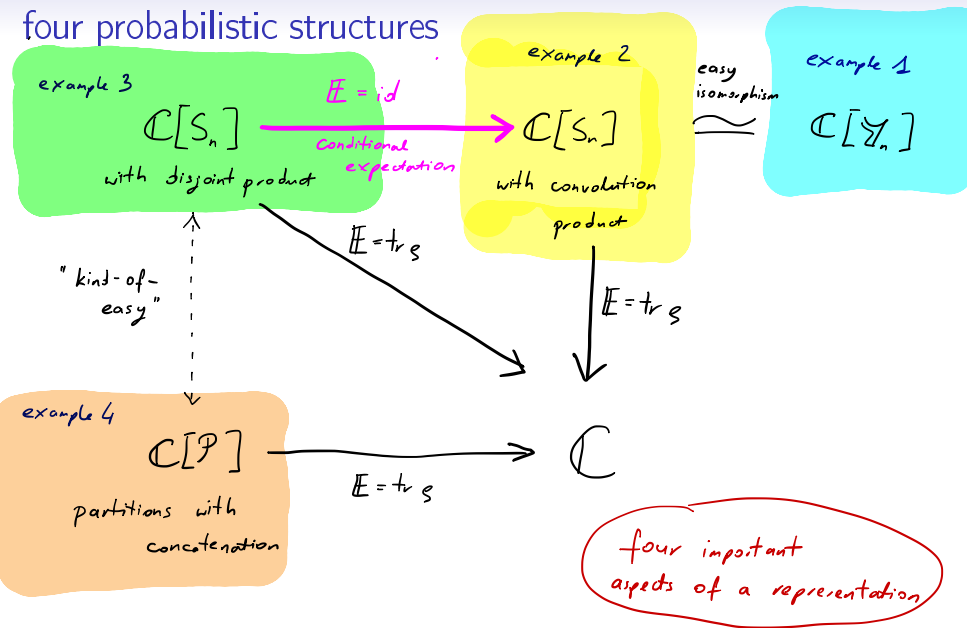
Example 4.

Partitions is a commutative semigroup
product = concatenation of partitions.

$$A = \mathbb{C}[\text{Partitions}]$$

$$\mathbb{E} \lambda = \begin{cases} \text{tr } g(\lambda, \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}) & \text{if } |\lambda| \leq n \\ \quad \text{any permutation with this} \\ \quad \text{cycle decomposition} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

four probabilistic structures



four probabilistic structures: covariances

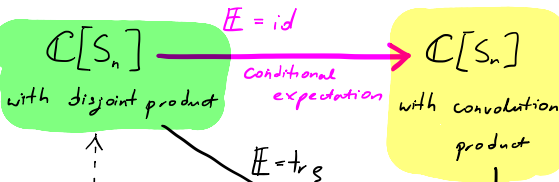
$$\text{Cov}^{\text{id}}(A_2, A_2) = A_2 \bullet A_2 - A_2 \cdot A_2 = A_{2,2} - A_2 \cdot A_2$$

example 2

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(A_2, A_2) &= \\ &= \text{tr}_g(A_2 \cdot A_2) - \\ &\quad - [\text{tr}_g(A_2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

example 3

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}^{\bullet}(A_2, A_2) &= \\ &= \text{tr}_g(A_{2,2}) - \\ &\quad - [\text{tr}_g(A_2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$



example 4

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}^{(2), (2)} &= \\ &= \text{tr}_g(2, 2) - \\ &\quad - [\text{tr}_g(2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{P}]$

partitions with concatenation

$$\mathbb{E} = \text{tr}_g$$

$\mathbb{C}$

? RELATIONS

Var Ch_2 , part 1

$$\text{Var } \text{Ch}_2 = \mathbb{E}(\text{Ch}_2)^2 - (\mathbb{E} \text{Ch}_2)^2 =$$

$\text{Cov}(A_2, A_2)$ in
 $(\mathbb{C}[S_n], \text{tr}_e)$ with
 convolution product

$$\text{tr } \rho(A_2^2) - (\text{tr } \rho(A_2))^2 =$$

$$\text{tr } \rho(A_{2,2} + 4A_3 + 2A_{1,1}) - (\text{tr } \rho(A_2))^2 =$$

$$\text{tr } \rho(A_2 \bullet A_2) - (\text{tr } \rho(A_2))^2 + \text{tr } \rho(A_2 A_2 - A_2 \bullet A_2)$$

$\text{Cov}^\bullet(A_2, A_2)$ in
 $(\mathbb{C}[S_n], \text{tr}_e)$ with
 disjoint product

$\text{tr}_e(\text{Cov}^{\text{id}}(A_2, A_2))$
 conditional expectation

Var Ch_2 , part 2

$$\text{tr } \rho(A_2 \bullet A_2) - (\text{tr } \rho(A_2))^2 =$$

$$n^4 \text{tr } \rho(2, 2) - (n^2)^2 (\text{tr } \rho(2))^2 =$$

$$n^4 \underbrace{\left[\text{tr } \rho(2, 2) - (\text{tr } \rho(2))^2 \right]}_{\text{Cov}(2, 2)} + \underbrace{\left[n^4 - (n^2)^2 \right]}_{\approx n^3} (\text{tr } \rho(2))^2$$

Cumulants.

$$k_\ell(A_1, \dots, A_\ell) = \frac{\partial^\ell}{\partial z_1 \dots \partial z_\ell} \log \mathbb{E} e^{z_1 A_1 + \dots + z_\ell A_\ell} \Big|_{z_1 = \dots = z_\ell = 0} = \quad (*)$$

↑ multidimensional Laplace transform,
works also with Fourier transform.
↑ this definition is ok if we view $z_1, \dots, z_\ell$ as
formal variables ($\rightarrow$ formal power series).

$$= [z_1 \dots z_\ell] \log \mathbb{E} e^{z_1 A_1 + \dots}$$

Small examples:

$$k_1(A_1) = \mathbb{E} A_1,$$

$$k_2(A_1, A_2) = \mathbb{E} A_1 A_2 - \mathbb{E} A_1 \mathbb{E} A_2 = \text{Cov}(A_1, A_2)$$

Information contained
in cumulants



Information contained
in moments.

Cumulants work best for random variables which have all moments finite.

They work even better if the distribution is uniquely determined by its moments.

→ Hamburger moment problem

Carleman's condition

Hamburger moment problem

→ [Wikipedia](#)

For the [Hamburger moment problem](#) (the moment problem on the whole real line), the theorem states the following:

Let μ be a [measure](#) on $\mathbf{R}$ such that all the moments

$$m_n = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^n d\mu(x), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

are finite. If

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_{2n}^{-\frac{1}{2n}} = +\infty,$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt[2n]{m_{2n}}} = \infty$$

then the moment problem for m_n is *determinate*; that is, μ is the only measure on $\mathbf{R}$ with

Moment-cumulant formula:

$$\mathbb{E} A_1 \dots A_n = \sum_{\substack{\pi \\ \text{partitions of } \{1, \dots, n\}}} K_{\pi}(A_1, \dots, A_n) \quad (**)$$

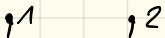
Example:

$$\mathbb{E} A_1 = K(A_1)$$

•¹

$$\mathbb{E} A_1 A_2 = K(A_1, A_2) + K(A_1) K(A_2)$$





$$\mathbb{E} A_1 A_2 A_3 = \dots$$

Moment-cumulant formula gives a triangular system of equations $\Rightarrow$ cumulants in terms of moments.

Homework: show that the definitions of free cumulants via (*) and via (**)
are equivalent.

Hint:

$$\mathbb{E} X_1 \cdots X_n = [z_1 \cdots z_n] \mathbb{E} e^{z_1 X_1 + \cdots + z_n X_n}$$

$$= [z_1 \cdots z_n] e^{\log \mathbb{E} e^{z_1 X_1 + \cdots + z_n X_n}} =$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$e^{\cdot} = \sum \frac{1}{k!} a^k$$

we understand its square-free terms via cumulants

$$= \sum_k \sum_{\substack{\text{ordered partitions of } \{1, \dots, n\} \\ \text{into } k \text{ non-empty parts}}} \frac{1}{k!}$$

$$\frac{1}{k!}$$

↑
actually, the
order is not
important

$$\prod$$

$$b = \{b_1, \dots, b_i\}$$

$b \in \text{partition}$

$$[z_{b_1} \cdots z_{b_i}] \log \mathbb{E} e^{z_1 X_1 + \cdots + z_n X_n}$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{K(X_{b_1}, \dots, X_{b_i})}$$

Fact: joint distribution of random variables $X_1, \dots, X_4$
is (multidimensional) normal
 $\Updownarrow$

$$\forall \ell \geq 3 \quad \forall i_1, \dots, i_\ell \in \{1, \dots, 4\}$$

$$K_\ell(X_{i_1}, \dots, X_{i_\ell}) = 0$$

$\Downarrow$ Hint: Gaussian distribution has a
simple explicit
laplace transform

$\Uparrow$ Gaussian
distribution is
uniquely
determined by moments

Formula of Leonov and Shirayev

"how cumulants of products are related to cumulants of individual random variables"

$$K(X_1, X_2, X_3) = K(X_1, X_2, X_3) + K(X_1, X_3) K(X_2) + K(X_2, X_3) K(X_1)$$

Diagrammatic representation of the formula using cumulants (dots) and lines (connections):

- $K(X_1, X_2, X_3)$: Three dots connected by a single line.
- $K(X_1, X_3) K(X_2)$: Two dots connected by a line, with a third dot below them.
- $K(X_2, X_3) K(X_1)$: Two dots connected by a line, with a third dot below them.

$X_1, \dots, X_n$ - random variables
 π -partition of $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\pi = \left\{ \underbrace{\left\{ \pi_{i,j} : 1 \leq j \leq |\pi_i| \right\}}_{\text{block } \pi_i} : 1 \leq i \leq \ell(\pi) \right\}$$

Thm.

$$K \left(\prod_{1 \leq j \leq |\pi_i|} X_{\pi_{i,j}} : 1 \leq i \leq \ell(\pi) \right) =$$

$$\sum_{\delta \text{-partition of } \{1, \dots, n\}} K_{\delta} (X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

δ -partition of $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\exists \forall \pi : \mathbb{1}$$

Hint: take the above formulas ∇ ! plural form! as a definition of $K(Y_{i_1}, Y_{i_2}, \dots)$. Check that moment-cumulant formula is fulfilled.

Approximate factorization property.

$$\mathbb{E}: \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

graded/filtrated algebras

Def.

$\mathbb{E}$ has approximate factorization property if

$$(*) \quad \deg_{\mathcal{B}}(K(X_1, \dots, X_\ell)) \leq \sum \deg_{\mathcal{A}} X_i - 2(\ell-1) \quad \forall X_1, \dots, X_\ell \in \mathcal{A}$$

Def. $Z \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ generates nicely $\mathcal{A}$ if

each $X \in \mathcal{A}$ can be expressed as a polynomial in the elements of Z
AND each monomial of this polynomial is of degree $\leq$ degree of X .

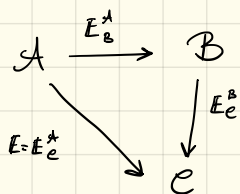
Ex. $1, x, x^2, \dots$ generate nicely $\mathbb{C}[x]$

$1+x, x, x^2, \dots$ DO NOT generate nicely $\mathbb{C}[x]$

Homework: show that if Z generates nicely $\mathcal{A}$ and $(*)$ holds true for all $X_1, \dots, X_\ell \in Z$ then $(*)$ holds true for all $X_1, \dots, X_\ell \in \mathcal{A}$.

HINT: Leonov & Shiroev.

Conditional expectation



three unital algebras,
three unital maps,
no further assumptions.

Conditional cumulants

Example

$$K_e^A(x_1, x_2, x_3) = K_e^B \left(K_B^A(x_1), K_B^A(x_2), K_B^A(x_3) \right) +$$

$$K_e^B \left(K_B^A(x_1, x_2), K_B^A(x_3) \right) +$$

(two other similar terms)

$$+ K_e^B \left(K_B^A(x_1, x_2, x_3) \right)$$

Brillinger's formula.

$$K_e^A(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\substack{\pi\text{-partition of} \\ \{1, \dots, n\}}} K_e^B \left(K_B^A(x_j : j \in \pi_i) \right) \quad : 1 \leq i \leq \ell(\pi)$$

$$\pi = \{ \pi_1, \dots, \pi_{\ell(\pi)} \}$$

Hint:

Conditional cumulants.