

## Round Table on Coherence (Part II)

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<sup>1</sup>These slides include joint work with Daniel Berntson (Princeton), Rachael Briggs (ANU), Fabrizio Cariani (NU), Kenny Easwaran (USC), and David McCarthy (HKU). Please do not cite or quote without permission.

- We saw in Part I that — *using only considerations of accuracy and dominance* — our framework yielded a coherence requirement for  $\mathfrak{B}$  that is *entailed by* (EB).
- In this (critical) Part II, I will explain why we think there is an “evidential gap” in Joycean arguments for probabilism.
- As Richard explained, the typical way to go through the “3 Steps” for credence involves the following choices:

Step 1: define the *vindicated* set of credences at a world  $w$  ( $\hat{b}_w$ ). We agree that  $\hat{b}_w$  assigns 1 to the truths at  $w$  and 0 to the falsehoods at  $w$  [ $\hat{b}_w$  matches the indicator function  $v_w$ ].

Step 2: define distance [ $\delta(\hat{b}, \hat{b}_w)$ ] between a credal set  $\hat{b}$  and  $\hat{b}_w$ . I'll discuss Joyce's [9] argument for *Euclidean distance*.

Step 3: choose a *fundamental principle* (of *epistemic decision theory*) which uses  $\delta(\hat{b}, \hat{b}_w)$  to ground a CR for  $\hat{b}$ . [*Dominance* is typical. Richard has new principle as well.]

- As Richard explained, these choices imply  $\hat{b}$ -*probabilism* as a CR for credal sets. But, we [I] are not quite convinced.

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- Consider the following two possible choices for  $\delta$ :

- $\delta_1(\mathfrak{b}, \mathring{\mathfrak{b}}_w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_p |b(p) - v_w(p)|$

- $\delta_2(\mathfrak{b}, \mathring{\mathfrak{b}}_w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\sum_p |b(p) - v_w(p)|^2}$

- These measures *disagree radically* regarding the norms they entail *via accuracy-dominance* in our framework [15].
- Joyce [9] gives an interesting "evidentialist" argument for  $\delta_2$  (over  $\delta_1$ ). The argument concerns a specific, simple agent  $S$ .
- Let  $P_i \cong$  a fair, 3-sided die comes up " $i$ ". Suppose  $S$  has the credal set  $\mathfrak{b} = \langle \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \rangle$ . And, suppose  $S$  *knows only that the die is fair* (i.e.,  $S$  has no other  $P_i$ -relevant evidence).
- Joyce claims that such an  $S$  clearly has the "evidentially correct" credences. Here, Joyce appeals to an *evidential requirement* for credences: *The Principal Principle* (PP) [14].
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☞  $S$  faces a conflict between an evidential requirement [(PP)] and a coherence requirement [(WADA $_{\delta_1}$ )]. Joyce thinks the evidential requirement *trumps here*. We're inclined to agree.

- But, we [2] think this sets Joyce himself up for a potential "evidentialist" objection. Joyce needs to argue that:
  - (†) If  $S$  adopts a *proper* measure (e.g.,  $\delta_2$ ), then  $S$ 's evidential requirements *cannot conflict with*  $S$ 's coherence (viz., non- $\delta$ -dominance) requirements. [But, this *can* happen if  $S$  adopts an *improper* measure (e.g.,  $\delta_1$ ), as in the case above.]
- To see why Joyce needs an argument for (†), consider an agent  $S$  with a non-probabilistic  $b$  s.t.:  $b(P) = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $b(\neg P) = \frac{1}{3}$ .
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*S* faces a conflict between an evidential requirement [(PP)] and a coherence requirement [(WADA $_{\delta_1}$ )]. Joyce thinks the evidential requirement *trumps here*. We're inclined to agree.

- But, we [2] think this sets Joyce himself up for a potential "evidentialist" objection. Joyce needs to argue that:
  - ( $\dagger$ ) If *S* adopts a *proper* measure (e.g.,  $\delta_2$ ), then *S*'s evidential requirements *cannot conflict with S's coherence* (viz., non- $\delta$ -dominance) requirements. [But, this *can* happen if *S* adopts an *improper* measure (e.g.,  $\delta_1$ ), as in the case above.]
- To see why Joyce needs an argument for ( $\dagger$ ), consider an agent *S* with a non-probabilistic *b* s.t.:  $b(P) = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $b(\neg P) = \frac{1}{3}$ .
- Suppose *S* adopts  $\delta_2$ . So, *S* is (strictly)  $\delta$ -dominated by each member *b'* of a set of (probabilistic) credence functions  $\mathbf{b}'$ . [Note that *no member of  $\mathbf{b}'$  can be such that  $b(P) \leq 0.3$ .*]
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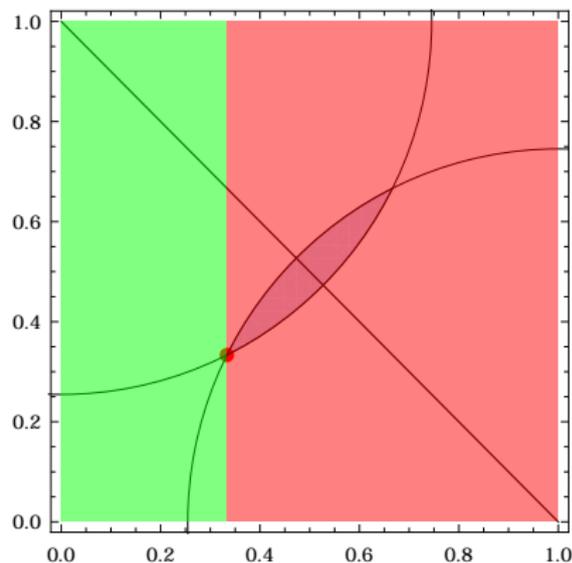
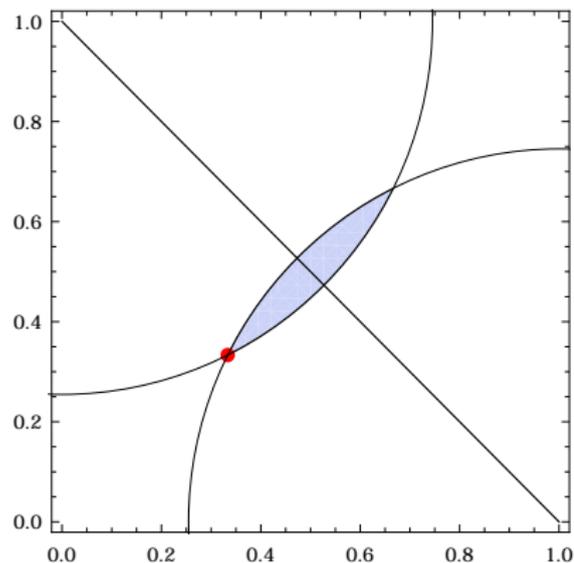


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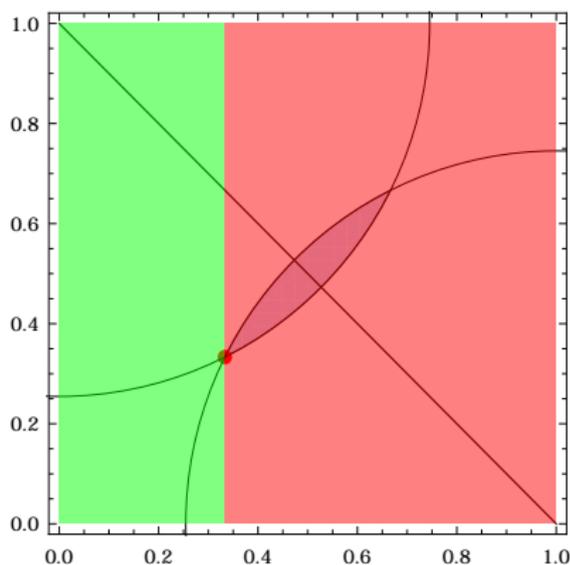
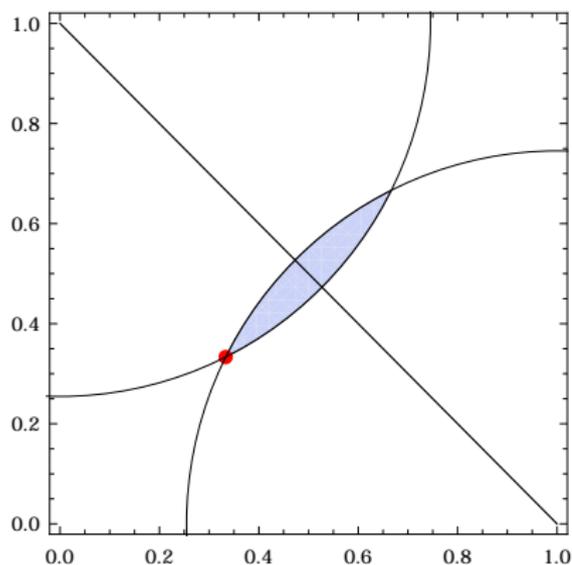
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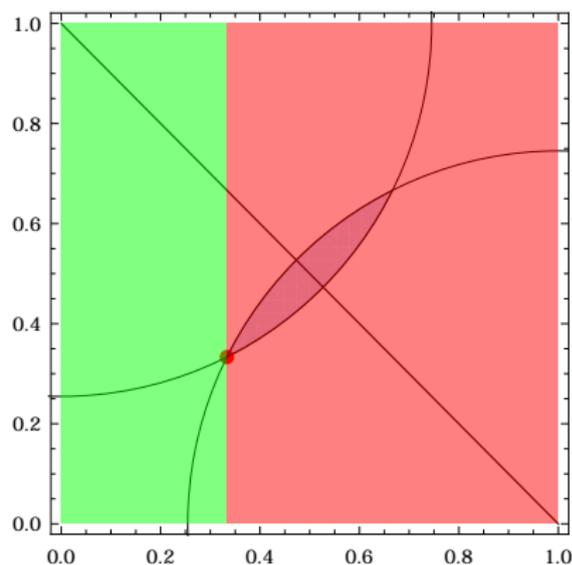
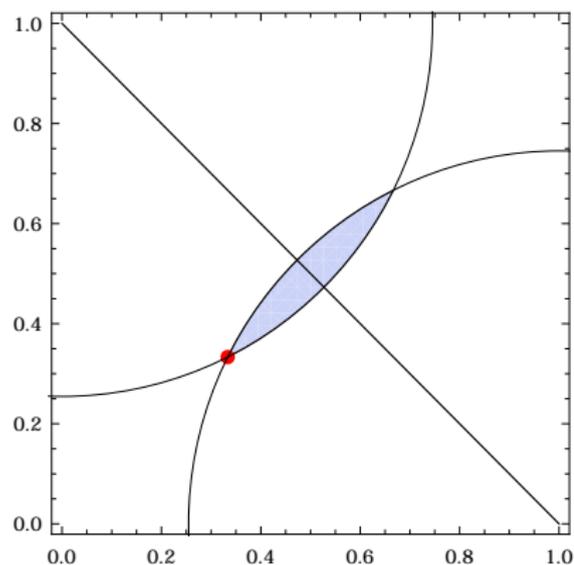


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Note: what the agent learns here is that *her evidence rules-out all of the functions  $\mathbf{b}'$  that  $\delta_2$ -dominate her.*

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Note: what the agent learns here is that *her evidence rules-out all of the functions  $\mathbf{b}'$  that  $\delta_2$ -dominate her.*

- This conflict is similar to the one that led us to reject  $\delta_1$ . But, here, we're using it for a different dialectical purpose.

- It is useful to compare the structures of norms for  $\mathfrak{B}$  vs  $\mathfrak{b}$ .

Full Belief/Disbelief ( $\mathfrak{B}$ )	Credence ( $\mathfrak{b}$ )
(TB) $S$ 's $B$ / $D$ 's ( $\mathfrak{B}$ ) should be vindicated.	(Tb) $S$ 's credences ( $\mathfrak{b}$ ) should be vindicated.
$\Downarrow$	$\Downarrow$
(PV $_2$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{B}$ should be consistent.	(PV $_2$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{b}$ should be extremal.
$\Downarrow$	$\Downarrow$
(WAD $_2$ ) $\mathfrak{B}$ should be warranted by $\mathfrak{E}$ .	(WAD $_2$ ) $\mathfrak{b}$ should be warranted by $\mathfrak{E}$ .
$\Downarrow$	$\Downarrow$
(WADA $_2$ ) $\mathfrak{B}$ should be warranted by $\mathfrak{A}$ .	(WADA $_2$ ) $\mathfrak{b}$ should be warranted by $\mathfrak{A}$ .

- Because Joyce does not articulate a *general evidential norm* (Eb) for credences, it is unclear what to say (generally) about the bottom arrows on the *b*-side — an important *disanalogy*.
- In this sense, the structure of norms for  $\mathfrak{B}$  seems *more complete/articulated than* the analogous structure for  $\mathfrak{b}$ .
-  We need an independent argument for (Eb)  $\rightarrow$  (WADA $_2$ ).
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Full Belief/Disbelief ( $\mathfrak{B}$ )	Credence ( $\mathfrak{b}$ )
(TB) $S$ 's $B/D$ 's ( $\mathfrak{B}$ ) should be <i>vindicated</i> .	(Tb) $S$ 's credences ( $\mathfrak{b}$ ) should be <i>vindicated</i> .
$\downarrow \nexists$	$\downarrow \nexists$
(PV $_d$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{B}$ should be <i>consistent</i> .	(PV $_\delta$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{b}$ should be <i>extremal</i> .
$\downarrow \nexists$	$\downarrow \nexists$
(WADA $_d$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{B}$ should be <i>non-d-dominated</i> .	(WADA $_\delta$ ) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{b}$ should be <i>non-<math>\delta</math>-dominated</i> .
$\nexists \nexists$	$\nexists \nexists$
(Eb) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{B}$ should be <i>supported by E</i> .	(Eb) $S$ 's $\mathfrak{b}$ should be <i>supported by E</i> .

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