



# REGULARITY AND COMPLETE DISTRIBUTIVITY IN FUZZY METRIC SPACES AND FORMAL CONTEXTS

ADRIANA BALAN  
POLITEHNICA BUCHAREST

XV PORTUGUESE CATEGORY SEMINAR  
11-12 SEPTEMBER 2025



# Motivation (I)

- ▶ The category **Sup** of complete sup-lattices and sup-preserving maps is **\*-autonomous**, with tensor product classifying bimorphisms.
- ▶ Various constructions for this tensor product are known [Banaschewski & Nelson 1976, Joyal & Tierney 1984, Mowatt 1968, Shmuely 1974].
- ▶ The **nuclear/dualisable** objects in **Sup** are the **completely distributive complete lattices** [Higgs & Rowe 1984].
- ▶ **Aim:** obtain **quantitative** versions of these results (**quantale-enriched**).
- ▶ Some results are already known [Eklund et al 2018, Tholen 2024].
- ▶ **Advantage:** categorical constructions/proofs; choice-free; exhibit those results for **Sup** which depend on **2** being self-dual.

# Quantales

- ▶ A (commutative) **quantale**  $\mathcal{V}$  is a (commutative) monoid in **Sup**:

$(\mathcal{V}, \vee, \perp)$  is a complete sup-lattice

$(\mathcal{V}, \otimes, e)$  is a commutative monoid such that  
–  $\otimes$  – preserves arbitrary sups

Consequence: every  $- \otimes v : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  has a right adjoint  $[v, -] : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$

- ▶ Typical examples

- ▶  $(2, \wedge, 1)$

- ▶  $([0, \infty]^{op}, +, 0)$

- ▶  $([0, 1], \otimes, 1)$ , with  $\otimes$  the usual product/min/Łukasiewicz product

- ▶ The quantale of left continuous distribution functions

$$\Delta = \{f : [0, \infty] \rightarrow [0, 1] \mid f(a) = \bigvee_{b < a} f(b)\}$$

# $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and $\mathcal{V}$ -functors

- Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a commutative quantale. A (small)  $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched category  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of a set of objects, together with a  $\mathcal{V}$ -valued relation (usually called  $\mathcal{V}$ -hom, or  $\mathcal{V}$ -distance, or  $\mathcal{V}$ -metric)

$$\mathcal{A}(-, -) : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$$

satisfying

$$e \leq \mathcal{A}(a, a) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{A}(a'', a') \otimes \mathcal{A}(a', a) \leq \mathcal{A}(a'', a)$$

- A  $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched functor  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  consists of an assignment of objects  $a \in \mathcal{A} \mapsto fa \in \mathcal{B}$  such that

$$\mathcal{A}(a', a) \leq \mathcal{B}(fa', fa)$$

- **Remark** Each  $\mathcal{V}$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  carries an underlying order  $a' \leq a \iff e \leq \mathcal{A}(a', a)$ . The  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  is called **separated** if  $\leq$  is antisymmetric. Each  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor is monotone wrt this underlying order.

# $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and $\mathcal{V}$ -functors

## Examples

- ▶  $\mathcal{V} = (\mathbb{2}, \wedge, 1)$ : ordered sets & monotone maps [Lawvere 1973]
- ▶  $\mathcal{V} = ([0, \infty]^{op}, +, 0)$ : (generalised) metric spaces & non-expansive maps [Lawvere 1973]
- ▶  $\mathcal{V} = \Delta$ : probabilistic metric spaces (the  $\Delta$ -hom  $\mathcal{A}(a', a)$  evaluated at  $p \in [0, 1]$  can be interpreted as “probability that the distance from  $a'$  to  $a$  is less than  $p$ ”) & maps such that “the probability that “the distance from  $a'$  to  $a$  is less than  $p$ ” is less than or equal to the “probability that the distance from  $fa'$  to  $fa$  is less than  $p$ ”” [Menger 1942]

# $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and $\mathcal{V}$ -functors

Denote as usual by  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$  the (2-)category of  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors.

Recall that  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$  is symmetric monoidal closed:

- ▶ The tensor product  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B}$  of two  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  has as objects pairs  $(a, b)$  with  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $b \in \mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mathcal{V}$ -homs

$$(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B})((a', b'), (a, b)) = \mathcal{A}(a', a) \otimes \mathcal{B}(b', b)$$

- ▶ The unit for the tensor product is the  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathbb{1}$ , with one object  $0$  and corresponding  $\mathcal{V}$ -hom given by  $\mathbb{1}(0, 0) = e$ .
- ▶ The internal hom between two  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  is the  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors  $[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}]$  from  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $\mathcal{B}$ , with  $\mathcal{V}$ -distances

$$[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}](f', f) = \bigwedge_a \mathcal{B}(f' a, f a)$$

# $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors

- ▶ A  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \multimap^{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$  is a  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor  $\varphi : \mathcal{B}^{op} \otimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  (a “monotone”  $\mathcal{V}$ -valued relation)

Particular cases: 
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathbb{1} \multimap^{\varphi} \mathcal{A} & \text{contravariant presheaves} \\ & (\mathcal{V}\text{-valued “downsets”}) \\ \mathcal{A} \multimap^{\varphi} \mathbb{1} & \text{covariant presheaves} \\ & (\mathcal{V}\text{-valued “upsets”}) \end{array} \right.$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors **compose** by “matrix multiplication”: the composite  $\mathcal{A} \multimap^{\varphi} \mathcal{B} \multimap^{\psi} \mathcal{C}$  is

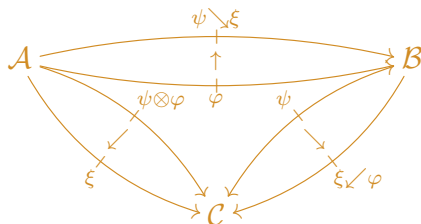
$$(\psi \otimes \varphi)(c, a) = \bigvee_b \psi(c, b) \otimes \varphi(b, a)$$

- ▶ The **identity  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor** on a  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  is the  $\mathcal{V}$ -hom  $\mathcal{A}(-, -)$
- ▶ Denote by  **$\mathcal{V}$ -Dist** the bicategory (quantaloid) of  $\mathcal{V}$ -enriched categories,  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors and  $\mathcal{V}$ -natural transformations.

# $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors

- $\mathcal{V}$ -**Dist** has all right **extensions** and **liftings**

$$\psi \otimes \varphi \leq \xi \iff \psi \leq \xi \swarrow \varphi \iff \varphi \leq \psi \searrow \xi$$



where

$$(\xi \swarrow \varphi)(c, b) = \bigwedge_a [\varphi(b, a), \xi(c, a)] \quad \text{and} \quad (\psi \searrow \xi)(b, a) = \bigwedge_c [\psi(c, b), \xi(c, a)]$$

- These induce the **triple adjunction**

$$\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Dist}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})(\varphi, \psi \searrow \xi) \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Dist}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C})(\psi \otimes \varphi, \xi) \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Dist}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C})(\psi, \xi \swarrow \varphi)$$



# Cocomplete $\mathcal{V}$ -categories

Denote now by  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$  the (2-)category of separated cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and cocontinuous  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors.

There are many equivalent descriptions of (separated) cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories (and correspondingly, of cocontinuous  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors):

- ▶ (Separated)  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories having all (small) colimits
- ▶ (Strict) algebras for the free cocompletion 2-monad  $\mathbb{D}$  on  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$
- ▶ Injective  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories (wrt fully faithful  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors) [Hofmann 2006]
- ▶ Complete sup-lattices endowed with an action of the quantale  $\mathcal{V}$  (hence the notation  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$ ) [Joyal & Tierney 1984]
- ▶ Algebras for the  $\mathcal{V}$ -valued powerset monad on  $\mathbf{Set}$  [Pedicchio & Tholen 1989]

# Free cocompletion 2-monad on $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}$  be  $[\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}]$ , the  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of contravariant presheaves on  $\mathcal{A}$  ( $\mathcal{V}$ -valued “downsets”).
- ▶ The correspondence  $\mathcal{A} \mapsto \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}$  produces a monad  $\mathbb{D} : \mathcal{V}\text{-Cat} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$  having as unit the Yoneda embedding

$$y_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}, \quad y(a) = \mathcal{A}(-, a)$$

and multiplication the  $\mathcal{V}$ -“union” of downsets.

- ▶ The action of  $\mathbb{D}$  on a  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is

$$\mathbb{D}f = \text{Lan}_{y_{\mathcal{A}}}(y_{\mathcal{B}} \circ f) : \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}\mathcal{B}$$

Recall that each  $\mathbb{D}f$  has a right adjoint which itself has a right adjoint  $\mathbb{D}_{\forall}f$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\mathbb{D}f} & \\ \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A} & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\perp} \\ \xrightarrow{\perp} \end{array} & \mathbb{D}\mathcal{B} \\ & \xleftarrow{\mathbb{D}_{\forall}f} & \end{array}$$

# Free cocompletion 2-monad on $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$

- $\mathbb{D}$  is the **free cocompletion** monad on  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Cat}$  [Kelly 1982, Stubbe 2006]; as such, it is a **Kock-Zöberlein**-monad.
- A (pseudo)  **$\mathbb{D}$ -algebra** is a cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$ , with structure provided by the left adjoint  $sup_{\mathcal{A}}$  of  $y_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

$$\mathcal{A} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{sup_{\mathcal{A}}} \\ \xrightleftharpoons[\quad y_{\mathcal{A}}]{\quad \perp \quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \end{array} \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}$$

- A (pseudo)  **$\mathbb{D}$ -homomorphism**  $f : (\mathcal{A}, sup_{\mathcal{A}}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}, sup_{\mathcal{B}})$  is a cocontinuous  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{\mathbb{D}f} & \mathbb{D}\mathcal{B} \\ \downarrow sup_{\mathcal{A}} & & \downarrow sup_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \mathcal{A} & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{B} \end{array}$$

# Tensor product of cocomplete $\mathcal{V}$ -categories

- Recall  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$ , the category of separated **cocomplete**  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and **cocontinuous**  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors (the category of (strict)  $\mathbb{D}$ -algebras).
- Being the free cocompletion monad,  $\mathbb{D}$  is **commutative** [López Franco 2011], therefore  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$  is **symmetric monoidal closed**:
  - The tensor product  $\otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}}$  classifies bimorphisms [Banaschewski & Nelson 1976] ( $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{2}$ ), [Joyal & Tierney 1984]

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow[\text{bimorphism}]{\text{universal}} & \mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}} \mathcal{B} \\ & \searrow \text{bimorphism} & \downarrow \text{morphism} \\ & & \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

- The unit is  $\mathbb{D}1 = \mathcal{V}$
- The internal hom is  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$

# Tensor product of cocomplete $\mathcal{V}$ -categories

► **Theorem** [B 2024]

The **tensor product**  $\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}} \mathcal{B}$  of two cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$  can be obtained as the following **inverter** below:

$$\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}} \mathcal{B} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B}) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{D}(y_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes y_{\mathcal{B}})} \\ \Downarrow \\ \xrightarrow{\mathbb{D}_{\mathcal{V}}(y_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes y_{\mathcal{B}})} \end{array} \mathbb{D}(\mathbb{D}\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathcal{B})$$

In particular,  $\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}} \mathcal{B}$  is **reflective** in  $\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B})$ .

- **Proof sketch.** The tensor product in the category of algebras for a monad is usually computed as a (reflexive) coequalizer. The monad  $\mathbb{D}$  being KZ, the coequalizer turns into a coinverter. Applying the 3x3 lemma for (reflexive) coinverters and the duality between complete and cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories leads to the result.

# Tensor product of cocomplete $\mathcal{V}$ -categories

## Remarks

- ▶ This description of  $\otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}}$  generalises the one for the tensor product of sup-lattices by **G-ideals** (down-sets of the cartesian product join-closed in either coordinate) [Shmuely 1974]
- ▶ The **universal bimorphism**

$$\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{y} \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{B}) \xrightarrow{q} \mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}} \mathcal{B}$$

is **dense** and **point-separating** with respect to the forgetful functor  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Cat}$  (where  $q$  is the reflector).

In particular, every object of  $\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}} \mathcal{B}$  can be canonically represented as a colimit of “elementary tensors”  $a \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}} b = q \circ y(a, b)$ .

## Corollary

- ▶ The monoidal structure of  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}$  restricts to the full subcategory  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{CCD}_{sup}$  (see p. 18-19)

# More on the tensor product of cocomplete $\mathcal{V}$ -categories

- ▶ There is a duality  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup} \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}^{op}$ , sending  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $\mathcal{A}^{op}$  and  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  to  $g^{op} : \mathcal{B}^{op} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{op}$ , where  $f \dashv g$
- ▶ In particular,  $\mathcal{A}^{op} \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A}^{op}) \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}^{op})$
- ▶ This implies that  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}$  is not only symmetric monoidal closed, but also  $\ast$ -autonomous, with dualiser  $\mathcal{V}^{op}$
- ▶ Consequently, the tensor product can be equivalently described using Galois connections [Eklund et al 2018, Tholen 2024]

$$\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}} \mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}^{op})^{op}$$

$\mathcal{V}$ - "Sup is good food" (R. Blute, FMCS 2022)

- ▶ What about other (monoidal) features of  $\mathcal{V}\text{-}\mathbf{Sup}$ ?

# Nuclearity/dualisability

- ▶ Grothendieck introduced in Functional Analysis the concept of **nuclearity** for objects and morphisms, in order to mimic **finite dimensionality** behaviour (for objects) and matrix calculus (for arrows) [Grothendieck 1955].
- ▶ **Nuclearity** (nowadays called **dualisability** in Category Theory) can be defined in the more general context of (symmetric) monoidal closed categories [Kelly 1972, Saavedro-Rivano 1972, Kelly & Laplaza 1980, Rowe 1988].



# Dualisability

- In a symmetric monoidal closed category, an arrow  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is **nuclear/dualisable** if the associated  $\mathbb{1} \rightarrow [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}]$  factorises through the canonical arrow  $\mathcal{B} \otimes [\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{1}] \rightarrow [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}]$

$$\mathbb{1} \xrightarrow{\quad \quad \quad} \mathcal{B} \otimes [\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{1}] \xrightarrow{\quad \quad \quad} [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}]$$


- An object  $\mathcal{A}$  is **nuclear/dualisable** if any of the following equivalent conditions hold:
  - $\mathcal{B} \otimes [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{C}] \cong [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{C}]$  for all  $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$
  - $\mathcal{A} \otimes [\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{1}] \cong [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}]$  (that is,  $id_{\mathcal{A}}$  is nuclear)

[Higgs & Rowe 1989, Kelly 1972, Kelly & Laplaza 1980]

If this is the case, then  $\mathcal{A}^* = [\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{1}]$  is the **dual** of  $\mathcal{A}$  and there are arrows  $\mathbb{1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}^*$ ,  $\mathcal{A}^* \otimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{1}$  satisfying the usual triangular identities.

- If all objects are nuclear/dualisable, the category is **compact closed**.

# Dualisability in $\mathcal{V}$ -Sup

- ▶ A cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  is **completely distributive** ( $\mathcal{V}$ -**CCD**) if the left adjoint to the Yoneda embedding (the  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor taking “suprema”) has itself a left adjoint ( $\mathcal{V}$ -valued analogue of the **totally below relation**):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\Downarrow_{\mathcal{A}}} & \\ \mathcal{A} & \xleftarrow{\sup_{\mathcal{A}}} & \mathbb{D}\mathcal{A} \\ & \xrightarrow{\Upsilon_{\mathcal{A}}} & \end{array} \quad [\text{Stubbe 2007}]$$

- ▶ More on  $\mathcal{V}$ -**CCDs**:
  - ▶ **Projective** objects of  $\mathcal{V}$ -**Sup** [Stubbe 2007]
  - ▶ Algebras for the **double dualisation monad**  $[[-, \mathcal{V}], \mathcal{V}]$  on  $\mathcal{V}$ -**Cat** [Băbuş & Kurz 2016, Stubbe 2017]
  - ▶ (Separated)  $\mathcal{V}$ -**CCDs** and continuous and cocontinuous  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors form an (infinitary) **variety**, thus have an equational presentation [B & Kurz 2021]

# Dualisability in $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$

- ▶ **Lemma** [B 2024] A free cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}$  is dualisable, with dual  $\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{A}^{op})$ .
- ▶ **Theorem** [B 2024] The dualisable objects in  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$  are precisely the  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}$ s.
- ▶ **Corollary** The full subcategory of  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$  consisting of completely distributive complete  $\mathcal{V}$ -categories and cocontinuous  $\mathcal{V}$ -functors  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}_{sup}$  is **compact closed** with respect to the tensor product and internal hom inherited from  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$ , the dual of a  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}$   $\mathcal{A}$  being  $\mathcal{A}^{op}$ .
- ▶ **Question** What are the nuclear arrows in  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$ ? (notice that in **Sup**, these are Raney's **tight maps**)

# Dualisability in $\mathcal{V}$ -Sup

## Examples

- ▶ The free cocompletion  $\mathbb{D}\mathcal{A}$  of any  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD [Lai & Zhang 2006, Stubbe 2007]
- ▶ In particular, the quantale  $\mathcal{V}$  is itself  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD as a  $\mathcal{V}$ -category,
- ▶ Retracts of free cocompletions are  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD (in fact, all  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCDs arise in that way) [Stubbe 2007]
- ▶ More (explicit) examples?

# Motivation (II)

- ▶ **Theorem** [Raney 1960, Bandelt 1980]

For a partially ordered set  $(A, \leq)$ , the following are equivalent:

- ▶ The **Dedekind-MacNeille completion** of  $(A, \leq)$  is a **completely distributive** complete lattice
- ▶  $\not\leq$  is a **regular** relation on  $A$

- ▶ **Questions**

- ▶ Can the above result be generalised from ordered sets to quantale-enriched categories?  
**Yes** (with extra assumptions on the quantale  $\mathcal{V}$ )
- ▶ Are there interesting applications?  
**Yes** (e.g. quantale-valued formal concept analysis)

# Regularity

- ▶ An element  $x$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called **regular** if there is some  $y \in S$  satisfying  $xyx = x$  (“generalised inverse” for  $x$ ) [Moore 1920, von Neumann 1936, Green 1951].

An arrow  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in a category  $\mathcal{A}$  is called **regular** if there is  $g : B \rightarrow A$  with  $f \circ g \circ f = f$  [MacLane 1971].

## ▶ Examples

- ▶ The apartness relation  $\in$  between a set  $A$  and its powerset  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  is regular.
- ▶ Idempotent relations, in particular orders or equivalence relations, are regular.
- ▶ Any real or complex matrix  $M$  is regular ( $MM^+M = M$ , where  $M^+$  is the Moore-Penrose inverse of  $M$ )

# Relations, Galois connections and regularity

- A relation between sets  $\varphi : A \rightarrowtail B$  induces a covariant adjunction (axiality)

$$\mathcal{P}(A) \xrightleftharpoons[\perp]{} \mathcal{P}(B) \quad , \quad \begin{cases} X \subseteq A \mapsto \{b \in B \mid \exists a \in X. \varphi(a, b)\} \\ Y \subseteq B \mapsto \{a \in A \mid \varphi(a, b) \Rightarrow b \in Y\} \end{cases}$$

and a contravariant adjunction (polarity)

$$\mathcal{P}(A) \xrightleftharpoons[\perp]{} \mathcal{P}(B)^{op} \quad , \quad \begin{cases} X \subseteq A \mapsto \{b \in B \mid \forall a. a \in X \Rightarrow \varphi(a, b)\} \\ Y \subseteq B \mapsto \{a \in A \mid \forall b. b \in Y \Rightarrow \varphi(a, b)\} \end{cases}$$

between powersets.

- Conversely, each covariant or contravariant adjunction between powersets arises from a binary relation as above [Birkhoff 1940, Everett 1944, MacNeille 1937, Ore 1944]
- A relation  $\varphi : A \rightarrowtail B$  is regular iff the complete lattice of fixed points of the induced adjunction between powersets  $\mathcal{P}(A)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(B)$  is completely distributive [Raney 1953], [Zaretskiĭ 1962], [Xu & Liu 2004].

# Regularity in $\mathcal{V}$ -Dist

## ► Regularity in $\mathcal{V}$ -Cat

A  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$  is **regular** if there exists  $\mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\varphi = \varphi \otimes \psi \otimes \varphi$ .

Equivalently,  $\varphi$  is **regular** if  $\varphi = \varphi \otimes (\varphi \searrow \varphi \swarrow \varphi) \otimes \varphi$ .

Idempotent  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors, or (left/right) adjoint  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors are regular.

- Similar characterisation of regular distributors in terms of fixed points of induced adjunctions? Yes, see next slides.



# $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors and adjunctions

- ▶ Recall that a  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$  is a  $\mathcal{V}$ -functor  $\varphi : \mathcal{B}^{op} \otimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  (a “monotone”  $\mathcal{V}$ -valued relation)
- ▶ Every  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$  induces adjunctions between covariant/contravariant presheaves:

- ▶ The Kan adjunctions<sup>1</sup>

$$[\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\varphi \otimes -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\varphi \searrow -} \end{array} [\mathcal{B}^{op}, \mathcal{V}]$$

$$[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}]^{op} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \otimes \varphi} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{- \swarrow \varphi} \end{array} [\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{V}]^{op}$$

- ▶ The Isbell adjunction

$$[\mathcal{B}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \searrow \varphi} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\varphi \swarrow -} \end{array} [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}]^{op}$$

- ▶ These adjunctions go back to [Bénabou 1973, Lambek 1966] in category theory.

---

<sup>1</sup>The terminology is borrowed from [Shen & Zhang 2013].

# $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors and adjunctions

- For the **Kan adjunction** associated to a  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$ , let **FixKan**( $\varphi$ ) denote the cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of fixed points of the adjunction:

$$[\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\varphi \otimes -} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\varphi \searrow -} \end{array} [\mathcal{B}^{op}, \mathcal{V}]$$

- **Theorem** [Lai & Shen 2018]

**FixKan**( $\varphi$ ) is  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}^{op} \Rightarrow \varphi$  is regular  $\Rightarrow$  **FixKan**( $\varphi$ ) is  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}$

The converse implications hold for every  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\varphi$  iff  $\mathcal{V}$  is a **Girard quantale**.

- Being  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}$  and  $\mathcal{V}\text{-CCD}^{op}$  are equivalent notions when  $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{2}$ , but not in general!
- Interpret the above result as an instance of the microcosm principle  $\mathcal{V}\text{-Sup}$  is  $*$ -autonomous, and for things to go as expected,  $\mathcal{V}$  must also be so (i.e. Girard!)

# $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors and adjunctions

- ▶ For the **Isbell adjunction** associated to a  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor  $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{B}$ , let **FixIsbell**( $\varphi$ ) denote the cocomplete  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of fixed points of the adjunction<sup>2</sup>:

$$[\mathcal{B}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \searrow \varphi} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\varphi \swarrow -} \end{array} [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}]^{op}$$

- ▶ **Formal Concept Analysis**: **FixIsbell**( $\varphi$ ) is the **concept lattice**/ $\mathcal{V}$ -category associated to the **context**  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \varphi)$
- ▶ For  $\varphi = \mathcal{A}(-, -)$  is the  $\mathcal{V}$ -valued hom of a  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$ , **FixIsbell**( $\varphi$ ) is the **Dedekind-MacNeille-Isbell completion** of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

---

<sup>2</sup>Also known as the **nucleus** of  $\varphi$  [Pavlović & Hughes 2020].

# Connecting $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD and regularity of $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors

**Proposition** [B 2025]

If  $\mathcal{V}$  is a Girard quantale with linear negation denoted  $(-)^{\perp}$ , then the **Isbell completion**

$$\mathbf{FixIsbell}(\mathcal{A})$$

of a  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  is  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD iff

$$\mathcal{A}^{\perp}(-, -) = (-)^{\perp} \circ \mathcal{A}(-, -)$$

is a **regular**  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor.

# Connecting $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD and regularity of $\mathcal{V}$ -distributors

## Proof sketch

- For each  $\mathcal{V}$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$ , the following diagram commutes [Willerton 2021]:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}^\perp \otimes -} \\ \xleftarrow{\perp} \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}^\perp \searrow -} \end{array} & [\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow (-)^\perp \\
 [\mathcal{A}^{op}, \mathcal{V}] & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{- \searrow \mathcal{A}} \\ \xleftarrow{\perp} \\ \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A} \swarrow -} \end{array} & [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}]^{op}
 \end{array}$$

- The  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of fixed points for the lower adjunction is **FixIsbell**( $\mathcal{A}$ ).
- The  $\mathcal{V}$ -category of fixed points of the upper adjunction **FixKan**( $\mathcal{A}^\perp$ ) is  $\mathcal{V}$ -CCD iff  $\mathcal{A}^\perp(-, -)$  is a regular  $\mathcal{V}$ -distributor.

# References

- ▶ [B 2025]  
*On the tensor product of quantale-enriched completely distributive categories*  
arXiv2501.12014
- ▶ [B 2025] (in preparation)  
*Isbell completion and regularity for quantale-enriched categories*

Thank you for your attention!