

# Recognizability in Stochastic Monoids

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## Abstract

Stochastic monoids and stochastic congruences are introduced and the syntactic stochastic monoid  $M_L$  associated to a subset  $L$  of a stochastic monoid  $M$  is constructed. It is shown that  $M_L$  is minimal among all stochastic epimorphisms  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  whose kernel saturates  $L$ . The subset  $L$  is said to be stochastically recognizable whenever  $M_L$  is finite. The so obtained class is closed under boolean operations and inverse morphisms.

**Key words:** recognizability, stochastic monoids, minimization.

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## 1 Introduction

A stochastic subset of a set  $M$  is a function  $F : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with the additional property  $\sum_{m \in M} F(m) = 1$ , i.e.,  $F$  is a discrete probability distribution. The corresponding class is denoted by  $Stoc(M)$ . Our subject of study, in the present paper, are stochastic monoids which were introduced in [4]. A stochastic monoid is a set  $M$  equipped with a stochastic multiplication  $M \times M \rightarrow Stoc(M)$  which is associative and unitary. It can be viewed as a nondeterministic monoid (cf. [1, 2, 3]) with multiplication  $M \times M \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(M)$  such that for all  $m_1, m_2 \in M$  a discrete probability distribution is assigned on the set  $m_1 \cdot m_2$ .

A congruence on a stochastic monoid  $M$  is an equivalence  $\sim$  on  $M$  such that  $m_1 \sim m'_1$  and  $m_2 \sim m'_2$  imply

$$\sum_{n \in C} (m_1 \cdot m_2)(n) = \sum_{n \in C} (m'_1 \cdot m'_2)(n)$$

for all  $\sim$ -classes  $C$ . The quotient  $M/\sim$  admits a stochastic monoid structure rendering the canonical function  $m \mapsto [m]$  an epimorphism of stochastic monoids. The classical Isomorphism Theorem of Algebra still holds in the stochastic setup, namely

for any epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  and every stochastic congruence  $\sim$  on  $M'$  its inverse image  $h^{-1}(\sim)$  defined by

$$m_1 h^{-1}(\sim) m_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad h(m_1) \sim h(m_2),$$

is again a stochastic congruence and the quotient stochastic monoids  $M/h^{-1}(\sim)$  and  $M'/\sim$  are isomorphic. In particular if  $\sim$  is the equality, then  $h^{-1}(=)$  is the kernel congruence of  $h$  (denoted by  $\sim_h$ )

$$m_1 \sim_h m_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad h(m_1) = h(m_2),$$

and the stochastic monoids  $M/\sim_h$  and  $M'$  are isomorphic.

We show that stochastic congruences are closed under the join operation. This allows us to construct the greatest stochastic congruence included in an equivalence  $\sim$ . It is the join of all stochastic congruences on  $M$  included into  $\sim$  and it is denoted by  $\sim^{stoc}$ . The quotient stochastic monoid  $M/\sim^{stoc}$  is denoted by  $M^{stoc}$  and has the following universal property:

given an epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  whose kernel  $\sim_h$  saturates the equivalence  $\sim$  there exists a unique epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h' : M' \rightarrow M^{stoc}$  such that  $h' \circ h = h^{stoc}$ , where  $h^{stoc} : M \rightarrow M^{stoc}$  is the canonical epimorphism into the quotient.

This result states that  $h^{stoc}$  is minimal among all epimorphisms saturating  $\sim$ .

Let  $M$  be a stochastic monoid and  $L \subseteq M$ . Denote by  $\sim_L$  the greatest congruence of  $M$  included in the partition (equivalence)  $\{L, M - L\}$ , i.e.,  $\sim_L = \{L, M - L\}^{stoc}$ . The quotient stochastic monoid  $M_L = M/\sim_L$  will be called the syntactic stochastic monoid of  $L$  and it is characterized by the following universal property.

For every stochastic monoid  $M$  and every epimorphism  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  verifying  $h^{-1}(h(L)) = L$ , there exists a unique epimorphism  $h' : M' \rightarrow M_L$  such that  $h' \circ h = h_L$  where  $h_L : M \rightarrow M_L$  is the canonical projection into the quotient.

A subset  $L$  of a stochastic monoid  $M$  is stochastically recognizable if there exist a finite stochastic monoid  $M'$  and a morphism  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  such that  $h^{-1}(h(L)) = L$ . By taking into account the previous result we get that  $L$  is recognizable if and only if its syntactic stochastic monoid is finite. Moreover stochastically recognizable subsets are closed under boolean operations and inverse morphisms.

## 2 Stochastic Subsets

Some useful elementary facts are displayed. Let  $(x_i)_{i \in I}$ ,  $(x_{ij})_{i \in I, j \in J}$ ,  $(y_j)_{j \in J}$  be families of nonnegative reals, then

$$\sup_{i \in I, j \in J} x_{ij} = \sup_{i \in I} \sup_{j \in J} x_{ij} = \sup_{j \in J} \sup_{i \in I} x_{ij}, \quad \sup_{i \in I, j \in J} x_i y_j = \sup_{i \in I} x_i \cdot \sup_{j \in J} y_j,$$

provided that the above suprema exist. If  $\sup_{I' \subseteq_{fin} I} \sum_{i \in I'} x_i$  exists, then we say that the sum  $\sum_{i \in I} x_i$  exists and we put

$$\sum_{i \in I} x_i = \sup_{I' \subseteq_{fin} I} \sum_{i \in I'} x_i$$

where the notation  $I' \subseteq_{fin} I$  means that  $I'$  is a finite subset of  $I$ .

It holds

$$\sum_{i \in I, j \in J} x_{ij} = \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J} x_{ij} = \sum_{j \in J} \sum_{i \in I} x_{ij}, \quad \sum_{i \in I, j \in J} x_i y_j = \sum_{i \in I} x_i \sum_{j \in J} y_j.$$

Let  $M$  be a non empty set and  $[0, 1]$  the unit interval, a *stochastic subset* of  $M$  is a function  $F : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with the additional property that the sum of its values exists and is equal to 1

$$\sum_{m \in M} F(m) = 1.$$

We denote by  $Stoc(M)$  the set of all stochastic subsets of  $M$ .

Let  $F_i : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ ,  $i \in I$ , be a family of functions such that for every  $m \in M$  the sum  $\sum_{i \in I} F_i(m)$  exists. Then the assignment

$$m \mapsto \sum_{i \in I} F_i(m)$$

defines a function from  $M$  to  $\mathbb{R}_+$  denoted by  $\sum_{i \in I} F_i$ , i.e.,

$$\left( \sum_{i \in I} F_i \right) (m) = \sum_{i \in I} F_i(m), \quad m \in M.$$

Now let  $(\lambda_i)_{i \in I}$  be a family in  $[0, 1]$  such that  $\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i = 1$  and  $F_i \in \text{Stoc}(M)$ ,  $i \in I$ . For any finite subset  $I'$  of  $I$  and any  $m \in M$ , we have

$$\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i(m) = \sup_{I' \subseteq_{\text{fin}} I} \sum_{i \in I'} \lambda_i F_i(m) \leq 1.$$

Thus  $\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i$  is defined and belongs to  $\text{Stoc}(M)$  because

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m \in M} \left( \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i \right) (m) &= \sum_{m \in M} \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i(m) = \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{m \in M} \lambda_i F_i(m) \\ &= \left( \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i \right) \left( \sum_{m \in M} F_i(m) \right) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we can state:

**Strong Convexity Lemma (SCL).** *The set  $\text{Stoc}(M)$  is a strongly convex set, i.e., for any stochastic family*

$$\lambda_i \in [0, 1], \quad F_i \in \text{Stoc}(M), \quad i \in I$$

*the function  $\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i$  is in  $\text{Stoc}(M)$ .*

For arbitrary sets  $M, M'$  any function  $h : M \rightarrow \text{Stoc}(M')$  can be extended into a function  $\bar{h} : \text{Stoc}(M) \rightarrow \text{Stoc}(M')$  by setting

$$\bar{h}(F) = \sum_{m \in M} F(m) \cdot h(m).$$

In particular, any function  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  is extended into a function  $\bar{h} : \text{Stoc}(M) \rightarrow \text{Stoc}(M')$  by the same as above formula. This formula is legitimate since by the strong convexity lemma

$$\sum_{m \in M} F(m) = 1$$

and  $h(m)$  is a stochastic subset of  $M'$ .

Hence, for any stochastic subset  $F : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  we have the expansion formula

$$F = \sum_{m \in M} F(m) \hat{m}$$

where  $\hat{m} : M \rightarrow [0, 1]$  stands for the singleton function

$$\hat{m}(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = m; \\ 0, & \text{if } n \neq m. \end{cases}$$

Often  $\hat{m}$  is identified with  $m$  itself.

### 3 Stochastic Congruences

Our main interest is focused on equivalences in the stochastic setup. Any equivalence relation  $\sim$  on the set  $M$ , can be extended into an equivalence relation  $\approx$  on the set  $\text{Stoc}(M)$  as follows: for  $F, F' \in \text{Stoc}(M)$  we set  $F \approx F'$  if and only if for each  $\sim$ -class  $C$  it holds

$$\sum_{m \in C} F(m) = \sum_{m \in C} F'(m),$$

that is both  $F, F'$  behave stochastically on  $C$  in similar way. The above sums exist because  $F, F'$  are stochastic subsets of  $M$ :

$$\sum_{m \in C} F(m) \leq \sum_{m \in M} F(m) = 1.$$

The equivalence  $\approx$  has a fundamental property, it is compatible with strong convex combinations.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Assume that  $(\lambda_i)_{i \in I}$  is a stochastic family of numbers in  $[0, 1]$  and  $F_i, F'_i \in \text{Stoc}(M)$ , for all  $i \in I$ . Then*

$$F_i \approx F'_i, \text{ for all } i \in I, \text{ implies } \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i \approx \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F'_i.$$

*Proof.* By hypothesis we have

$$\sum_{m \in C} F_i(m) = \sum_{m \in C} F'_i(m)$$

for any  $\sim$ -class  $C$  in  $M$ , and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m \in C} \left( \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i \right) (m) &= \sum_{m \in C} \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i(m) = \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i \sum_{m \in C} F_i(m) \\ &= \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i \sum_{m \in C} F'_i(m) = \sum_{m \in C} \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F'_i(m) \\ &= \sum_{m \in C} \left( \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F'_i \right) (m) \end{aligned}$$

that is

$$\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F_i \approx \sum_{i \in I} \lambda_i F'_i$$

as wanted. □

## 4 Stochastic Monoids

A stochastic monoid is a set  $M$  equipped with a stochastic multiplication, i.e. a function

$$M \times M \rightarrow \text{Stoc}(M), \quad (m_1, m_2) \mapsto m_1 m_2$$

which is associative

$$\sum_{n \in M} (m_1 m_2)(n)(n m_3) = \sum_{n \in M} (m_2 m_3)(n)(m_1 n)$$

and unitary i.e. there is an element  $e \in M$  such that

$$m e = m = e m, \quad \text{for all } m \in M.$$

For instance any ordinary monoid can be viewed as a stochastic monoid. In the present study it is important to have a congruence notion. More precisely, let  $M$  be a stochastic monoid and  $\sim$  an equivalence relation on the set  $M$ , such that:  $m_1 \sim m'_1$  and  $m_2 \sim m'_2$  implies

$$\sum_{m \in C} (m_1 m_2)(m) = \sum_{m \in C} (m'_1 m'_2)(m)$$

for all  $\sim$ -classes  $C$ , then  $\sim$  is called a *stochastic congruence* on  $M$ . This condition can be reformulated as follows:  $m_1 \sim m'_1$  and  $m_2 \sim m'_2$  implies

$$m_1 m_2 \approx m'_1 m'_2.$$

**Proposition 4.1.** *The quotient set  $M/\sim$  is structured into a stochastic monoid by defining the stochastic multiplication via the formula*

$$([m_1][m_2])([n]) = \sum_{m \in [n]} (m_1 m_2)(m).$$

*Proof.* First observe that the above multiplication is well defined. Next for every  $\sim$ -class  $[b]$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (([m_1][m_2])[m_3])([b]) &= \sum_{[n] \in M/\sim} ([m_1][m_2])([n])([n][m_3])([b]) \\ &= \sum_{[n] \in M/\sim} \sum_{n_1 \in [n]} (m_1 m_2)(n_1) \sum_{b' \in [b]} (n m_3)(b') \end{aligned}$$

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Since  $n \sim n_1$  we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{[n] \in M / \sim} \sum_{n_1 \in [n]} (m_1 m_2)(n_1) \sum_{b' \in [b]} (n_1 m_3)(b') \\
 &= \sum_{[n] \in M / \sim} \sum_{b' \in [b]} \sum_{n_1 \in [n]} (m_1 m_2)(n_1) (n_1 m_3)(b') \\
 &= \sum_{b' \in [b]} \sum_{n_1 \in M} (m_1 m_2)(n_1) (n_1 m_3)(b').
 \end{aligned}$$

By taking into account the associativity of  $M$  we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{b' \in [b]} \sum_{n_1 \in M} (m_2 m_3)(n_1) (m_1 n_1)(b') \\
 &= ([m_1]([m_2][m_3]))([b]). \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

Congruences on an ordinary monoid  $M$  coincide with stochastic congruences when  $M$  is viewed as a stochastic monoid. The first question arising is whether stochastic congruence is a good algebraic notion. This is checked by the validity of the known isomorphism theorems in their stochastic variant.

Given stochastic monoids  $M$  and  $M'$ , a strict morphism from  $M$  to  $M'$  is a function  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  preserving stochastic multiplication and units, i.e.,

$$\bar{h}(m_1 m_2) = h(m_1) h(m_2), \quad h(e) = e',$$

for all  $m_1, m_2 \in M$ , where  $e, e'$  are the units of  $M, M'$  respectively, and  $\bar{h} : Stoc(M) \rightarrow Stoc(M')$  the canonical extension of  $h$  defined in Section 2.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Given an epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  and a stochastic congruence  $\sim$  on  $M'$ , its inverse image  $h^{-1}(\sim)$  defined by*

$$m_1 h^{-1}(\sim) m_2 \quad \text{if} \quad h(m_1) \sim h(m_2)$$

*is also a stochastic congruence and the stochastic quotient monoids  $M/h^{-1}(\sim)$  and  $M'/\sim$  are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Assume that

$$m_1 h^{-1}(\sim) m'_1 \quad \text{and} \quad m_2 h^{-1}(\sim) m'_2$$

that is

$$h(m_1) \sim h(m'_1) \quad \text{and} \quad h(m_2) \sim h(m'_2).$$

Then

$$\bar{h}(m_1 m_2) = h(m_1)h(m_2) \approx h(m'_1)h(m'_2) = \bar{h}(m'_1 m'_2),$$

that is for all  $C \in M'/\sim$ , we have

$$\sum_{c \in C} \bar{h}(m_1 m_2)(c) = \sum_{c \in C} \bar{h}(m'_1 m'_2)(c),$$

but

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{c \in C} \bar{h}(m_1 m_2)(c) &= \sum_{c \in C} \sum_{m \in M} (m_1 m_2)(m) h(m)(c) = \sum_{m \in M} (m_1 m_2)(m) \sum_{c \in C} h(m)(c) \\ &= \sum_{m \in h^{-1}(C)} (m_1 m_2)(m). \end{aligned}$$

Recall that all  $h^{-1}(\sim)$ -classes are of the form  $h^{-1}(C)$ ,  $C \in M'/\sim$ . Consequently,

$$= \sum_{m \in h^{-1}(C)} (m_1 m_2)(m) = \sum_{m \in h^{-1}(C)} (m'_1 m'_2)(m)$$

which shows that  $h^{-1}(\sim)$  is indeed a congruence of the stochastic monoid  $M$ . The desired isomorphism  $\hat{h} : M/h^{-1}(\sim) \rightarrow M'/\sim$  is given by

$$\hat{h}([m]_{h^{-1}(\sim)}) = [h(m)]_{\sim}. \quad \square$$

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  be an epimorphism of stochastic monoids. Then the kernel equivalence*

$$m_1 \sim_h m_2 \text{ if } h(m_1) = h(m_2)$$

*is a congruence on  $M$  and the stochastic quotient monoid  $M/\sim_h$  is isomorphic to  $M'$ .*

Given stochastic monoids  $M_1, \dots, M_k$  the stochastic multiplication

$$[(m_1, \dots, m_k) \cdot (m'_1, \dots, m'_k)](n_1, \dots, n_k) = (m_1 m'_1)(n_1) \cdots (m_k m'_k)(n_k)$$

structures the set  $M_1 \times \cdots \times M_k$  into a stochastic monoid so that the canonical projection

$$\pi_i : M_1 \times \cdots \times M_k \rightarrow M_i, \quad \pi_i(m_1, \dots, m_k) = m_i$$

becomes a morphism of stochastic monoids. Notice that the above multiplication is stochastic because

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{n_i \in M_i \\ 1 \leq i \leq k}} (m_1 m'_1)(n_1) \cdots (m_k m'_k)(n_k) &= \sum_{n_1 \in M_1} (m_1 m'_1)(n_1) \cdots \sum_{n_k \in M_k} (m_k m'_k)(n_k) \\ &= 1 \cdots 1 = 1. \end{aligned}$$



**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $\sim_i$  be a stochastic congruence on the stochastic monoid  $M_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ). Then  $\sim_1 \times \cdots \times \sim_k$  is a stochastic congruence on the stochastic monoid  $M_1 \times \cdots \times M_k$  and the stochastic monoids  $M_1 \times \cdots \times M_k / \sim_1 \times \cdots \times \sim_k$  and  $M_1 / \sim_1 \times \cdots \times M_k / \sim_k$  are isomorphic.*

## 5 Greatest Stochastic Congruence Saturating an Equivalence

First observe that, due to the symmetric property which an equivalence relation satisfies, the sumability condition in the definition of a congruence can be replaced by the weaker condition:  $m_1 \sim m'_1$  and  $m_2 \sim m'_2$  implies

$$\sum_{m \in C} (m_1 m_2)(m) \leq \sum_{m \in C} (m'_1 m'_2)(m)$$

for all  $\sim$ -classes  $C$ .

**Lemma 5.1.** *The equivalence  $\sim$  on the stochastic monoid  $M$  is a congruence if and only if the following condition is fulfilled:  $m \sim m'$ , implies*

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m' \cdot n)(b) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{b \in C} (n \cdot m)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (n \cdot m')(b).$$

*Proof.* One direction is immediate whereas for the opposite direction we have:  $m_1 \sim m'_1$  and  $m_2 \sim m'_2$  imply

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m_1 \cdot m_2)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m'_1 \cdot m_2)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m'_1 \cdot m'_2)(b). \quad \square$$

Next we demonstrate that stochastic congruences are closed under the join operation. We recall that the join  $\bigvee_{i \in I} \sim_i$  of a family of equivalences  $(\sim_i)_{i \in I}$  on a set  $A$  is the reflexive and transitive closure of their union:

$$\bigvee_{i \in I} \sim_i = \left( \bigcup_{i \in I} \sim_i \right)^*$$

**Theorem 5.1.** *If  $(\sim_i)_{i \in I}$  is a family of stochastic congruences on  $M$ , then their join  $\bigvee_{i \in I} \sim_i$  is also a stochastic congruence.*

*Proof.* Let  $\sim_1, \sim_2$  be two congruences on  $M$  and  $\sim = \sim_1 \vee \sim_2$ . First we show that  $m \sim_1 m'$  implies

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m' \cdot n)(b),$$

for all  $\sim$ -classes  $C$ . From the inclusion  $\sim_1 \subseteq \sim$  we get that  $C$  is the disjoint union

$$C = \bigcup_{j=1}^m C_j^1$$

where  $C_j^1$  denote  $\sim_1$ -classes. Then

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m \cdot n)(b) = \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{b \in C_j^1} (m \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{b \in C_j^1} (m' \cdot n)(b) = \sum_{b \in C} (m' \cdot n)(b).$$

By a similar argument we show that  $m \sim_2 m'$  implies

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m' \cdot n)(b),$$

for all  $\sim$ -classes  $C$ . Now, if  $m \sim m'$ , without any loss we may assume that

$$m \sim_1 m_1 \sim_2 m_2 \sim_1 \cdots \sim_1 m_{2\lambda-1} \sim_2 m'$$

for some elements  $m_1, \dots, m_{2\lambda-1} \in M$ . Applying successively the previous facts, we obtain

$$\sum_{b \in C} (m \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m_1 \cdot n)(b) \leq \cdots \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m_{2\lambda-1} \cdot n)(b) \leq \sum_{b \in C} (m' \cdot n)(b).$$

For an arbitrary set of congruences we proceed in a similar way.  $\square$

The previous result leads us to introduce the greatest stochastic congruence included into an equivalence  $\sim$  of  $M$ . It is the join of all stochastic congruences on  $M$  included into  $\sim$  and it is denoted by  $\sim^{stoc}$ . The quotient stochastic monoid  $M / \sim^{stoc}$  is denoted by  $M^{stoc}$  and has the following universal property

**Theorem 5.2.** *Given an epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  whose kernel  $\sim_h$  saturates the equivalence  $\sim$  there exists a unique epimorphism of stochastic monoids  $h' : M' \rightarrow M^{stoc}$  rendering commutative the triangle*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & M & \\ h \swarrow & & \searrow h^{stoc} \\ M' & \xrightarrow{h'} & M^{stoc} \end{array}$$

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where  $h^{stoc} : M \rightarrow M^{stoc}$  is the canonical projection  $m \mapsto [m]_{stoc}$  sending every element  $m \in M$  on its  $\sim^{stoc}$ -class.

*Proof.* By virtue of the Isomorphism Theorem the stochastic monoid  $M'$  is isomorphic to the quotient  $M / \sim_h$ . Since by assumption  $\sim_h \subseteq \sim^{stoc}$ ,  $h'$  is the following composition

$$M' \xrightarrow{\sim} M / \sim_h \xrightarrow{f} M / \sim^{stoc} = M^{stoc},$$

with  $f([m]_h) = [m]_{stoc}$ ,  $[m]_h$  being the  $\sim_h$ -class of  $m$ .  $\square$

The previous result states that  $h^{stoc}$  is minimal among all epimorphisms saturating  $\sim$ .

## 6 Syntactic Stochastic Monoids

Let  $M$  be a stochastic monoid and  $L \subseteq M$ . Denote by  $\sim_L$  the greatest congruence of  $M$  included in the partition (equivalence)  $\{L, M - L\}$ , i.e.,

$$\sim_L = \{L, M - L\}^{stoc}.$$

The quotient stochastic monoid  $M_L = M / \sim_L$  will be called the *syntactic stochastic monoid* of  $L$  and it is characterized by the following universal property.

**Theorem 6.1.** *For every stochastic monoid  $M$  and every epimorphism  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  verifying  $h^{-1}(h(L)) = L$ , there exists a unique epimorphism  $h' : M' \rightarrow M_L$  rendering commutative the triangle*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & M & \\ h \swarrow & & \searrow h_L \\ M' & \xrightarrow{h'} & M_L \end{array}$$

where  $h_L$  is the canonical morphism sending every element  $m \in M$  to its  $\sim_L$ -class.

*Proof.* The hypothesis  $h^{-1}(h(L)) = L$  means that  $\sim_h$  saturates  $L$  and so the statement follows immediately by Theorem 5.2.  $\square$

Given stochastic monoids  $M, M'$  we write  $M' < M$  if there is a stochastic monoid  $\bar{M}$  and a situation

$$M' \xleftarrow{h} \bar{M} \xrightarrow{i} M$$

where  $i$  (resp.  $h$ ) is a monomorphism (resp. epimorphism).

**Theorem 6.2.** *Given subsets  $L_1, L_2, L$  of a stochastic monoid  $M$  it holds*

*i)  $M_{L_1 \cap L_2} < M_{L_1} \times M_{L_2}$ ,*

*ii)  $M_L = M_{\bar{L}}$ , where  $\bar{L}$  designates the set theoretic complement of  $L$ ,*

*iii)  $M_{L_1 \cup L_2} < M_{L_1} \times M_{L_2}$ ,*

*iv) If  $h : M \rightarrow N$  is an epimorphism of ND-monoids and  $L \subseteq N$ , then  $M_{h^{-1}(L)} = M_L$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows by applying Theorem 6.1. □

A subset  $L$  of a stochastic monoid  $M$  is *stochastically recognizable* if there exist a finite stochastic monoid  $M'$  and a morphism  $h : M \rightarrow M'$  such that  $h^{-1}(h(L)) = L$ . The class of stochastically recognizable subsets of  $M$  is denoted by  $StocRec(M)$ . By taking into account Theorem 6.1 we get

**Proposition 6.1.**  *$L \subseteq M$  is recognizable if and only if its syntactic stochastic monoid is finite,  $card(M_L) < \infty$ .*

Putting this result together with Theorem 6.2 we yield

**Proposition 6.2.** *The class  $StocRec(M)$  is closed under boolean operations and inverse morphisms.*

## References

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