Belief Conditioning Rules

Florentin Smarandache
Department of Mathematics,
University of New Mexico,
Gallup, NM 87301, U.S.A.
smarand@unm.edu

Jean Dezert
ONERA,
29 Avenue de la Division Leclerc,
92320 Châtillon, France.
Jean.Dezert@onera.fr

Abstract − *In this paper we propose a new family of Belief Conditioning Rules (BCR) for belief revision. These rules are not directly related with the fusion of several sources of evidence but with the revision of a belief assignment available at a given time according to the new truth (i.e. conditioning constraint) one has about the space of solutions of the problem.*

Keywords: Belief conditioning rule, Belief revision, DSmT, information fusion.

1 Introduction

In this paper we define several Belief Conditioning Rules (BCR) for use in information fusion and for belief revision. Suppose we have a basic belief assignment (bba) $m_1(.)$ defined on hyper-power set D^Θ, and we find out that the truth is in a given element $A \in D^\Theta$. So far in literature devoted to belief functions and the mathematical theory of evidence, there has been used Shafer's Conditioning Rule (SCR) [2], which simply combines the mass $m_1(.)$ with a specific bba focused on A, i.e. $m_S(A) = 1$, and then uses Dempster's rule to transfer the conflicting mass to non-empty sets. But in our opinion this conditioning approach based on the combination of two bba's is *subjective* since in such procedure both sources are subjective. While conditioning a mass $m_1(.)$, *knowing* (or assuming) that the truth is in A, means that we have an absolute (not subjective) information, i.e. the truth is in A has occurred (or is assumed to have occurred), thus A was realized (or is assumed to be realized), hence it is an absolute truth. "Truth in A" must therefore be considered as an absolute truth when conditioning, while $m_S(A) = 1$ used in SCR does not refer to an absolute truth actually, but only to a subjective certainty in the possible occurrence of A given by a second source of evidence. This is the main and fundamental distinction between our approaches (BCRs) and Shafer's (SCR). In our opinion, SCR does not do a conditioning, but only a fusion of $m_1(.)$ with a particular bba $m_S(A) = 1$. The main advantage of SCR is that it is simple and thus very appealing, and in some cases it gives the same results with some BCRs, and it remains coherent with conditional probability when $m_1(.)$ is a Bayesian belief assignment. In the sequel, we will present many (actually thirty one BCR rules, denoted BCR1-BCR31) new alternative issues for belief conditioning. The sequel does not count: a) if we first know the source $m_1(.)$ and then that the truth is in A (or is supposed to be in A), or b) if we first know (or assume) the truth is in A, and then we find the source $m_1()$.The results of conditioning are the same. In addition, we work on a hyper-power set, that is a generalization of the power set. The best among these BCR1-31, that we recommend researchers to use, are: BCR17 for a pessimistic/prudent view on conditioning problem and a more refined redistribution of conflicting masses, or BCR12 for a very pessimistic/prudent view and less refined redistribution. After a short presentation of SCR rule, we present in the following sections all new BCR rules we propose, many examples, and a very important and open challenging question about belief fusion and conditioning.

2 Shafer's conditioning rule (SCR)

Before going further in the development of new belief conditioning rules, it is important to recall the conditioning of beliefs proposed by Glenn Shafer in [2] (p.66–67) and reported below.

So, let's suppose that the effect of a new evidence (say source 2) on the frame of discernment Θ is to establish a particular subset $B \subset \Theta$ with certainty. Then Bel_2 will give a degree of belief one to the proposition corresponding to B and to every proposition implied by it:

$$\text{Bel}_2(A) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } B \subset A; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since the subset B is the only focal element of Bel_2, its basic belief assignment is one, i.e. $m_2(B) = 1$. Such a function Bel_2 is then combinable with the (prior) Bel_1 as long as $\text{Bel}_1(\bar{B}) < 1$, and the Dempster's rule of combination (denoted $\oplus$) provides the conditional belief $\text{Bel}_1(.|B) = \text{Bel}_1 \oplus \text{Bel}_2$ (according to Theorem 3.6 in [2]). More specifically, one gets for all $A \subset \Theta$,

$$\text{Bel}_1(A|B) = \frac{\text{Bel}_1(A \cup \bar{B}) - \text{Bel}_1(\bar{B})}{1 - \text{Bel}_1(\bar{B})}$$

$$\text{Pl}_1(A|B) = \frac{\text{Pl}_1(A \cap B)}{\text{Pl}_1(B)}$$

where $\text{Pl}(.)$ denotes the plausibility function.

3 Belief Conditioning Rules (BCR)

Let $\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_n\}$, $n \geq 2$, and the hyper-power set[1] D^Θ. Let's consider a basic belief assignment (bba) $m(.) : D^\Theta \mapsto [0,1]$ such that $\sum_{X \in D^\Theta} m(X) = 1$.

Suppose one finds out that the truth is in the set $A \in D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. Let $\mathcal{P}_\mathcal{D}(A) = 2^A \cap D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$, i.e. all non-empty parts (subsets) of A which are included in D^Θ. Let's consider the normal cases when $A \neq \emptyset$ and $\sum_{Y \in \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{D}(A)} m(Y) > 0$. For the degenerate case when the truth is in $A = \emptyset$, we consider Smets' open-world, which means that there are other hypotheses $\Theta' = \{\theta_{n+1}, \theta_{n+2}, \ldots \theta_{n+m}\}$, $m \geq 1$, and the truth is in $A \in D^{\Theta'} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. If $A = \emptyset$ and we consider a close-world, then it means that the problem is impossible. For another degenerate case, when $\sum_{Y \in \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{D}(A)} m(Y) = 0$, i.e. when the source gave us a totally (100%) wrong information $m(.)$, then, we define: $m(A|A) \triangleq 1$ and, as a consequence, $m(X|A) = 0$ for any $X \neq A$.

Let $s(A) = \{\theta_{i_1}, \theta_{i_2}, \ldots, \theta_{i_p}\}$, $1 \leq p \leq n$, be the singletons/atoms that compose A (For example, if $A = \theta_1 \cup (\theta_3 \cap \theta_4)$ then $s(A) = \{\theta_1, \theta_3, \theta_4\}$.). We consider three subsets of $D^\Theta \setminus \emptyset$, generated by A:

- $D_1 = \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{D}(A)$, the parts of A which are included in the hyper-power set, except the empty set;

- $D_2 = \{(\Theta \setminus s(A)), \cup, \cap\} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$, i.e. the sub-hyper-power set generated by $\Theta \setminus s(A)$ under $\cup$ and $\cap$, without the empty set.

- $D_3 = (D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}) \setminus (D_1 \cup D_2)$; each set from D_3 has in its formula singletons from both $s(A)$ and $\Theta \setminus s(A)$ in the case when $\Theta \setminus s(A)$ is different from empty set.

D_1, D_2 and D_3 have no element in common two by two and their union is $D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$.

Examples of decomposition of $D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\} = D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$: Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$ and the free DSm model.

---

[1] The below formulas can also be defined on the power set 2^Θ and respectively super-power set S^Θ in exactly the same way.

- If one supposes the truth is in A, then $D_1 = \{A, A \cap B, A \cap C, A \cap B \cap C\} \equiv \mathcal{P}(A) \cap (D^\Theta \setminus \emptyset)$, i.e. D_1 contains all the parts of A which are included in D^Θ, except the empty set. D_2 contains all elements which do not contain the letter A, i.e. $D_2 = (\{B, C\}, \cup, \cap) = D^{\{B,C\}} = \{B, C, B \cup C, B \cap C\}$. $D_3 = \{A \cup B, A \cup C, A \cup B \cup C, A \cup (B \cap C)\}$, i.e. In this case, sets whose formulas contain both the letters A and at least a letter from $\{B, C\}$ and are not included in D_1.

- If one supposes the truth is in $A \cap B$, then one has $D1 = \{A \cap B, A \cap B \cap C\}$, $D_2 = \{C\}$; i.e. D_2 elements do not contain the letters A, B; and $D_3 = \{A, B, A \cup B, A \cap C, B \cap C, \ldots\}$, i.e. whats left from $D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ after removing D_1 and D_2.

- If one supposes the truth is in $A \cup B$, then one has $D_1 = \{A, B, A \cap B, A \cup B\}$, and all other sets included in these four ones, i.e. $A \cap C$, $B \cap C$, $A \cap B \cap C$, $A \cup (B \cap C)$, $B \cup (A \cap C)$, $(A \cap C) \cup (B \cap C)$, etc; $D_2 = \{C\}$, i.e. D_2 elements do not contain the letters A, B and $D_3 = \{A \cup C, B \cup C, A \cup B \cup C, C \cup (A \cap B)\}$.

- If one supposes the truth is in $A \cup B \cup C$, then one has $D_1 = D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. D_2 does not exist since $s(A \cup B \cup C) = \{A, B, C\}$ and $\Theta \setminus \{A, B, C\} = \emptyset$; i.e. D_2 elements do not contain the letters A, B, C. D_3 does not exist since $(D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}) \setminus D_1 = \emptyset$.

- If one supposes the truth is in $A \cap B \cap C$, then one has $D_1 = \{A \cap B \cap C\}$; D_2 does not exist; i.e. D_2 elements do not contain the letters A, B, C and D_3 equals everything else, i.e. $(D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}) \setminus D_1 = \{A, B, C, A \cap B, A \cap C, B \cap C, A \cup B, A \cup C, B \cup C, A \cup B \cup C, A \cup (B \cap C), \ldots\}$; D_3 has $19 - 1 - 1 = 17$ elements.

We propose several Belief Conditioning Rules (BCR) for deriving a (posterior) conditioning belief assignment $m(.|A)$ from a (prior) bba $m(.)$ and a conditioning set $A \in D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$. For all forthcoming BCR formulas, of course we have:

$$m(X|A) = 0, \qquad \text{if} \quad X \notin D_1 \tag{1}$$

3.1 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 1 (BCR1)

The Belief Conditioning Rule no. 1, denoted BCR1 for short, is defined for $X \in D_1$ by the formula

$$m_{BCR1}(X|A) = m(X) + \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_2 \cup D_3} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} = \frac{m(X)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} \tag{2}$$

This is the easiest transfer of masses of the elements from D_2 and D_3 to the non-empty elements from D_1. This transfer is done indiscriminately in a similar way to Dempster's rule transfer, but this transfer is less exact. Therefore the sum of masses of non-empty elements from D_2 and D_3 is transferred to the masses of non-empty elements from D_1 proportionally with respect to their corresponding non-null masses.

In a set of sets, such as D_1, D_2, D_3, D^Θ, we consider the *inclusion* of sets, $\subseteq$, which is a partial ordering relationship. The model of D^Θ generates submodels for D_1, D_2 and D_3 respectively.

Let $W \in D_3$. We say $X \in D_1$ is the *k-largest*, $k \geq 1$, element from D_1 that is included in W, if: $\nexists Y \in D_1 \setminus \{X\}$ with $X \subset Y$, and $X \subset W$. Depending on the model, there are $k \geq 1$ such elements. Similarly, we say that $X \in D_1$ is the *k-smallest*, $k \geq 1$, element from D_1 that is included in W, if: $\nexists Y \in D_1 \setminus \{X\}$ with $Y \subset X$, and $X \subset W$. Since in many cases there are $k \geq 1$ such elements, we call each of them a *k-smallest element*.

We recall that the *DSm Cardinal*, i.e. $Card_{DSm}(X)$ for $X \in D^\Theta$, is the number of distinct parts that compose X in the Venn Diagram. It depends on the model and on the cardinal of Θ, see [3] for details.

We partially increasingly order the elements in D_1 using the inclusion relationship and their DSm Cardinals. Since there are elements $X, Y \in D_1$ that are in no relationship with each other (i.e. $X \nsubseteq Y$, $Y \nsubseteq X$), but having the *same* DSm Cardinal, we list them together in a same class. We, similarly as in statistics, say that X is a *k-median*, $k \geq 1$, element if X is in the middle of D_1 in the case when cardinal of D_1, $Card(D_1)$, is odd, or if $Card(D_1)$ is even we take the left and right classes from the middle of D_1 list. We also compute a *k-average*, $k \geq 1$, element of D_1 by first computing $\sum_{X \in D_1} Card_{DSm}(X)/Card(D_1)$. Then *k-average elements* are those whose DSm Cardinal is close to the atomic average of D_1. For each computation of k-largest, k-smallest, k-median, or k-average we take the whole class of a such element. In a class as stated above, all elements have

the same DSm Cardinal and none is included in another one.

Let's see a few examples:

a) Let $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$, Shafer's model, and the truth is in $B \cup C$.

$$D_1 = \{B, C, B \cup C\} \qquad Card_{DSm}(B) = Card_{DSm}(C) = 1 \qquad Card_{DSm}(B \cup C) = 2$$

In D_1, we have: the 1-largest element is $B \cup C$; the k-smallest (herein 2-smallest) are B, C; the k-median (herein 2-median) is the class of C, which is formed by the elements B, C; the k-average of D_1 is $(Card_{DSm}(B) + Card_{DSm}(C) + Card_{DSm}(B \cup C))/Card(D_1) = (1 + 1 + 2)/3 = 1.333333 \approx 1$ and the k-averages are B, C.

b) Let $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$, free DSm model, and the truth is in $B \cup C$. Then:

$$D_1 = \{\underbrace{B \cap C \cap A}_{Card_{DSm}=1}, \underbrace{B \cap C, B \cap A, C \cap A}_{Card_{DSm}=2},$$
$$\underbrace{(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A), (B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)}_{Card_{DSm}=3},$$
$$\underbrace{(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A), B, C}_{Card_{DSm}=4}, \underbrace{B \cup (C \cap A), C \cup (B \cap A)}_{Card_{DSm}=5}, \underbrace{B \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=6}\}$$

Therefore $Card(D_1) = 13$.

$$D_2 = \{\underbrace{A}_{Card_{DSm}=4}\} \qquad \text{and} \qquad Card(D_2) = 1.$$

$$D_3 = \{\underbrace{A \cup (B \cap C)}_{Card_{DSm}=5}, \underbrace{A \cup B, A \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=6}, \underbrace{A \cup B \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=7}\} \qquad \text{and} \qquad Card(D_3) = 4.$$

One verifies easily that:

$$Card(D^{\Theta}) = 19 = Card(D_1) + Card(D_2) + Card(D_3) + 1 \text{ element (the empty set)}$$

c) Let $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$, free DSm model, and the truth is in B.

$$D_1 = \{\underbrace{B \cap C \cap A}_{\text{class 1}}, \underbrace{B \cap A, B \cap C}_{\text{class 2}}, \underbrace{B}_{\text{class 3}}\}$$

$$Card_{DSm}(\text{class 1}) = 1 \qquad Card_{DSm}(\text{class 2}) = 2 \qquad Card_{DSm}(\text{class 3}) = 3$$

The D_1 list is increasingly by class DSm Cardinals. The 1-largest element is B; the 1-smallest is $B \cap C \cap A$; the 2-median elements are $B \cap A$, $B \cap C$; the average of DSm Cardinals is $[1 \cdot (1) + 2 \cdot (2) + 1 \cdot (3)]/4 = 2$. The 2-average elements are $B \cap A$, $B \cap C$.

For the following BCR formulas, the k-largest, k-smallest, k-median, and k-average elements respectively are calculated *only* for those elements from D_1 that are included in a given W (where $W \in D_3$), not for the whole D_1.

3.2 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 2 (BCR2)

In Belief Conditioning Rule no. 2, i.e. BCR2 for short, a better transfer is proposed. While the sum of masses of elements from D_2 is redistributed in a similar way to the non-empty elements from D_1 proportionally with respect to their corresponding non-null masses, the masses of elements from D_3 are redistributed differently, i.e. if $W \in D_3$ then its whole mass, $m(W)$, is transferred to the k-largest (with respect to inclusion from D_1) set $X \subset W$; this is considered a *pessimistic/prudent way*. The formula of BCR2 for $X \in D_1$ is defined by:

$$m_{BCR2}(X|A) = m(X) + \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-largest}}} m(W)/k \qquad (3)$$

or equivalently

$$m_{BCR2}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-largest}}} m(W)/k \qquad (4)$$

where X is the k-largest (with respect to inclusion) set included in W. The previous formula is actually equivalent in the Shafer's model to the following formula:

$$m_{BCR2}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ W = X \text{ when } \Theta \setminus s(A) \equiv \emptyset}} m(W)/k \qquad (5)$$

3.3 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 3 (BCR3)

The Belief Conditioning Rule no. 3, i.e. BCR3 is a dual of BCR2, but the transfer of $m(W)$ is done to the k-smallest, $k \geq 1$, (with respect to inclusion) set $X \subset W$, i.e. in an *optimistic way*. The formula of BCR3 for $X \in D_1$ is defined by:

$$m_{BCR3}(X|A) = m(X) + \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-smallest}}} m(W)/k \qquad (6)$$

or equivalently

$$m_{BCR3}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-smallest}}} m(W)/k \qquad (7)$$

where X is the k-smallest, $k \geq 1$, (with respect to inclusion) set included in W.

There are cases where BCR2 and BCR3 coincide, i.e. when there is only one, or none, $X \subset W$ for each $W \in D_3$.

3.4 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 4 (BCR4)

In an average between pessimistic and optimistic ways, we can consider "X k-median" in the previous formulas in order to get the Belief Conditioning Rule no. 4 (BCR4), i.e. for any $X \in D_1$,

$$m_{BCR4}(X|A) = m(X) + \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-median}}} m(W)/k \qquad (8)$$

or equivalently

$$m_{BCR4}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-median}}} m(W)/k \qquad (9)$$

where X is a k-median element of all elements from D_1 which are included in W. Here we do a medium (neither pessimistic nor optimistic) transfer.

3.5   Belief Conditioning Rule no. 5 (BCR5)

We replace "X is k-median" by "X is k-average" in BCR4 formula in order to obtain the BCR5, i.e. for any $X \in D_1$,

$$m_{BCR5}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-average}}} m(W)/k \tag{10}$$

where X is a k-average element of all elements from D_1 which are included in W. This transfer from D_3 is also medium and the result close to BCR4's.

3.6   Belief Conditioning Rule no. 6 (BCR6)

BCR6 does a uniform redistribution of masses of each element $W \in D_3$ to all elements from D_1 which are included in W, i.e. for any $X \in D_1$,

$$m_{BCR6}(X|A) = \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W}} \frac{m(W)}{Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}} \tag{11}$$

where $Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}$ is the cardinal (number) of D_1 sets included in W.

3.7   Belief Conditioning Rule no. 7 (BCR7)

In our opinion, a better (prudent) transfer is done in the following Belief Conditioning Rule no. 7 (BCR7) defined for any $X \in D_1$ by:

$$m_{BCR7}(X|A) = m(X) + \frac{m(X) \cdot \sum_{Z \in D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)}$$

$$+ m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-largest} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k$$

where $S(W) \triangleq \sum_{Y \in D_1, Y \subset W} m(Y)$.

Or, simplified we get:

$$m_{BCR7}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\frac{\sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-largest} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \tag{12}$$

The transfer is done in the following way:

- the sum of masses of elements in D_2 are redistributed to the non-empty elements from D_1 proportionally with respect to their corresponding non-null masses (similarly as in BCR1-BCR6 and BCR8-BCR11 defined in the sequel);

- for each element $W \in D_3$, its mass $m(W)$ is distributed to all elements from D_1 which are included in W and whose masses are non-null proportionally with their corresponding masses (according to the second term of the formula (12));

- but, if all elements from D_1 which are included in W have null masses, then $m(W)$ is transferred to the k-largest X from D_1, which is included in W (according to the last term of the formula (12)); this is the *pessimistic/prudent way.*

3.8 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 8 (BCR8)

A dual of BCR7 is the Belief Conditioning Rule no. 8 (BCR8), where we consider the *optimistic/more specialized way*, i.e. "X is k-largest" is replaced by "X is k-smallest", $k \geq 1$ in (12). Therefore, BCR8 formula for any $X \in D_1$ is given by :

$$
m_{BCR8}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\frac{\sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, \, S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right]
$$

$$
+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, X \text{ is } k\text{-smallest} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \quad (13)
$$

where $S(W) \triangleq \sum\limits_{Y \in D_1, Y \subset W} m(Y)$.

3.9 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 9 (BCR9)

In an average between pessimistic and optimistic ways, we can consider "X k-median" in the previous formulas (12) and (13) instead of "k-largest" or "k-smallest" in order to get the Belief Conditioning Rule no. 9 (BCR9).

3.10 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 10 (BCR10)

BCR10 is similar to BCR9 using an average transfer (neither pessimistic nor optimistic) from D_3 to D_1. We only replace "X k-median" by "X k-average" in BCR9 formula.

3.11 Belief Conditioning Rule no. 11 (BCR11)

BCR11 does a uniform redistribution of masses of D_3 to D_1, as BCR6, but when $S(W) = 0$ for $W \in D_3$. BCR11 formula for any $X \in D_1$ is given by:

$$m_{BCR11}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\frac{\sum_{Z \in D_1 \cup D_2} m(Z)}{\sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)} + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, \\ S(W) = 0}} \frac{m(W)}{Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}} \quad (14)$$

where $Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}$ is the cardinal (number) of D_1 sets included in W.

3.12 More Belief Conditioning Rules (BCR12-BCR21)

More versions of BCRs can be constructed that are distinguished through the way the masses of elements from $D_2 \cup D_3$ are redistributed to those in D_1. So far, in BCR1-11, we have redistributed the masses of D_2 indiscriminately to D_1, but for the free and some hybrid DSm models of D^Θ we can do a more exact redistribution.

There are elements in D_2 that don't include any element from D_1; the mass of these elements will be redistributed identically as in BCR1-. But other elements from D_2 that include at least one element from D_1 will be redistributed as we did before with D_3. So we can improve the last ten BCRs for any $X \in D_1$ as follows:

$$m_{BCR12}(X|A) = m(X) + \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_2 \\ \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_2 \\ X \subset Z, \text{ X is } k\text{-largest}}} m(Z)/k + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_3 \\ X \subset W, \text{ X is } k\text{-largest}}} m(W)/k \quad (15)$$

or equivalently

$$m_{BCR12}(X|A) = \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \text{ X is } k\text{-largest}}} m(W)/k \quad (16)$$

$$m_{BCR13}(X|A) = \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \text{ X is } k\text{-smallest}}} m(W)/k \quad (17)$$

$$m_{BCR14}(X|A) = \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z)\Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \, X \text{ is } k\text{-median}}} m(W)/k \quad (18)$$

$$m_{BCR15}(X|A) = \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z)\Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \, X \text{ is } k\text{-average}}} m(W)/k \quad (19)$$

$$m_{BCR16}(X|A) = \Big[m(X) \cdot \sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z)\Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W}} \frac{m(W)}{Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}} \quad (20)$$

$$m_{BCR17}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \Bigg[\Big[\sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z)\Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y) + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)}\Bigg]$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \, X \text{ is } k\text{-largest} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \quad (21)$$

$$m_{BCR18}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \Bigg[\Big[\sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z)\Big] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y) + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)}\Bigg]$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \, X \text{ is } k\text{-smallest} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \quad (22)$$

$$m_{BCR19}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\left[\sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \right] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y) + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right] \right.$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \text{X is } k\text{-median} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \quad (23)$$

$$m_{BCR20}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\left[\sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \right] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y) + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right] \right.$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W, \text{X is } k\text{-average} \\ S(W)=0}} m(W)/k \quad (24)$$

$$m_{BCR21}(X|A) = m(X) \cdot \left[\left[\sum_{\substack{Z \in D_1, \\ \text{or } Z \in D_2 \,|\, \nexists Y \in D_1 \text{ with } Y \subset Z}} m(Z) \right] / \sum_{Y \in D_1} m(Y) + \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W) \neq 0}} \frac{m(W)}{S(W)} \right] \right.$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{W \in D_2 \cup D_3 \\ X \subset W \\ S(W)=0}} \frac{m(W)}{Card\{V \in D_1 | V \subset W\}} \quad (25)$$

Surely, other combinations of the ways of redistributions of masses from D_2 and D_3 to D_1 can be done, obtaining new BCR rules.

4 Examples

4.1 Example no. 1 (free DSm model with non-Bayesian bba)

Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$, the free DSm model (no intersection is empty) and the following prior bba

$$m_1(A) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(C) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(B \cup C) = 0.1$$

$$m_1(A \cup (B \cap C)) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(A \cap B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.1$$

and let's assume that the truth is in $B \cup C$, i.e. the conditioning term is $B \cup C$. Then:

$$D_1 = \{\underbrace{B \cap C \cap A}_{Card_{DSm}=1}, \underbrace{B \cap C, B \cap A, C \cap A,}_{Card_{DSm}=2}$$

$$\underbrace{(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A), (B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A),}_{Card_{DSm}=3}$$

$$\underbrace{(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A), B, C,}_{Card_{DSm}=4} \underbrace{B \cup (C \cap A), C \cup (B \cap A),}_{Card_{DSm}=5} \underbrace{B \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=6} \}$$

Therefore $Card(D_1) = 13$.

We recall that $\forall X \in D^\Theta$, the *DSm Cardinal* of X, $Card_{DSm}(X)$, is equal to the number of distinct parts that compose X in the Venn Diagram (see below) according to the given model on D^Θ. By definition, $Card_{DSm}(\emptyset) = 0$ (see [3] for examples and details).
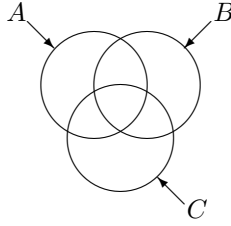

Figure 1: Venn Diagram for the 3D free DSm model

$$D_2 = \{ \underbrace{A}_{Card_{DSm}=4} \} \quad \text{and} \quad Card(D_2) = 1.$$

$$D_3 = \{\underbrace{A \cup (B \cap C)}_{Card_{DSm}=5}, \underbrace{A \cup B, A \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=6}, \underbrace{A \cup B \cup C}_{Card_{DSm}=7}\} \quad \text{and} \quad Card(D_3) = 4.$$

One verifies easily that:

$$Card(D^\Theta) = 19 = Card(D_1) + Card(D_2) + Card(D_3) + 1 \text{ element (the empty set)}$$

The masses of elements from $D_2 \cup D_3$ are transferred to the elements of D_1. The ways these transfers are done make the distinction between the BCRs.

a) In BCR1, the sum of masses of D_2 and D_3 are indiscriminately distributed to B, C, $B \cup C$, $A \cap B$, proportionally to their corresponding masses 0.1, 0.2, 0.1, and respectively 0.1, i.e.

$$m(D_2 \cup D_3) = m_1(A) + m_1(A \cup B) + m_1(A \cup (B \cap C)) + m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.5$$

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{w_{B \cap A}}{0.1} = \frac{0.5}{0.5} = 1$$

whence $x_B = 0.1$, $y_C = 0.2$, $z_{B \cup C} = 0.1$ and $w_{B \cap A} = 0.1$ are added to the original masses of B, C, $B \cup C$ and $B \cap A$ respectively.

Finally, one gets with BCR1-based conditioning:

$$m_{BCR1}(B|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{BCR1}(C|B \cup C) = 0.4$$
$$m_{BCR1}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{BCR1}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.2$$

b) In BCR2, $m(D_2) = m_1(A) = 0.2$ and is indiscriminately distributed to B, C, $B \cup C$, $A \cap B$, proportionally to their corresponding masses, i.e.

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{w_{B \cap A}}{0.1} = \frac{0.2}{0.5} = 0.4$$

whence $x_B = 0.04$, $y_C = 0.08$, $z_{B \cup C} = 0.04$ and $w_{B \cap A} = 0.04$.

$m(D_3)$ is redistributed, element by element, to the k-largest D_1 element in each case: $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ to $B \cup (C \cap A)$, since $B \cup (C \cap A) \in D_1$ and it is the 1-largest one from D_1 included in $A \cup B$; $m_1(A \cup (B \cap C)) = 0.1$ to $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A) \cup (B \cap C)$ for a similar reason; $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.1$ to $B \cup C$. Finally, one gets with BCR2-based conditioning:

$$m_{BCR2}(B|B \cup C) = 0.14$$
$$m_{BCR2}(C|B \cup C) = 0.28$$
$$m_{BCR2}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.24$$
$$m_{BCR2}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.14$$
$$m_{BCR2}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A) \cup (B \cap C)|B \cup C) = 0.10$$
$$m_{BCR2}(B \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 0.10$$

c) In BCR3, instead of k-largest D_1 elements, we consider k-smallest ones. $m(D_2) = m_1(A) = 0.2$ is exactly distributed as in BCR2. But $m(D_3)$ is, in each case, redistributed to the k-smallest D_1 element, which is $A \cap B \cap C$ (1-smallest herein). Hence:

$$m_{BCR3}(B|B \cup C) = 0.14$$
$$m_{BCR3}(C|B \cup C) = 0.28$$
$$m_{BCR3}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.14$$
$$m_{BCR3}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.14$$
$$m_{BCR3}(A \cap B \cap C|B \cup C) = 0.30$$

d) In BCR4, we use k-median.

- $A \cup B$ includes the following D_1 elements:

$$A \cap B \cap C, B \cap C, B \cap A, C \cap A, (B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A), \underbrace{\qquad}_{\text{median herein}}$$
$$(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A), B, B \cup (A \cap C)$$

Hence we take the whole class: $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, i.e. 3-medians; each one receiving $1/3$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup B)$.

- $A \cup (B \cap C)$ includes the following D_1 elements:

$$A \cap B \cap C, B \cap C, B \cap A, C \cap A, \underbrace{\qquad}_{\text{median herein}}$$
$$(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A), (B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A), (B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$$

Hence we take the left and right (to the median) classes: $B \cap C$, $B \cap A$, $C \cap A$, $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, i.e. 6-medians, each ones receiving $1/6$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup (B \cap C))$.

- $A \cup B \cup C$ includes all D_1 elements, hence the 3-medians are $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$ and $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$; each one receiving $1/3$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup B \cup C)$

Totalizing, one finally gets:

$$m_{BCR4}(B|B \cup C) = 42/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}(C|B \cup C) = 84/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 42/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 47/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}(B \cap C|B \cup C) = 5/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}(C \cap A|B \cup C) = 5/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$
$$m_{BCR4}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$

e) In BCR5, we compute k-average, i.e. the k-average of DSm cardinals of the D_1 elements included in eack $W \in D_3$.

- For $A \cup B$, using the results got in BCR4 above:

$$\sum_{X \in D_1, X \subset A \cup B} Card_{DSm}(X) = 1 + 3 \cdot (2) + 3 \cdot (3) + 4 + 4 + 5 = 29$$

  The average DSm cardinal per element is $29/10 = 2.9 \approx 3$. Hence $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, i.e. the 3-average elements, receive each $1/3$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup B)$.

- For $A \cup (B \cap C)$, one has

$$\sum_{X \in D_1, X \subset A \cup (B \cap C)} Card_{DSm}(X) = 1 + 3 \cdot (2) + 3 \cdot (3) + 4 = 20$$

  The average DSm cardinal per element is $20/8 = 2.5 \approx 3$. Hence again $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, i.e. the 3-average elements, receive each $1/3$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup (B \cap C))$.

- For $A \cup B \cup C$, one has

$$\sum_{X \in D_1, X \subset A \cup B \cup C} Card_{DSm}(X) = 1 + 3 \cdot (2) + 3 \cdot (3) + 4 + 2 \cdot (4) + 2 \cdot (5) + 6 = 44$$

  The average DSm cardinal per element is $44/13 = 3.38 \approx 3$. Hence $(B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)$, $(B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, i.e. the 3-average elements, receive each $1/3$ of $0.1 = m_1(A \cup B \cup C)$.

Totalizing, one finally gets:

$$m_{BCR5}(B|B \cup C) = 42/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}(C|B \cup C) = 84/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 42/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 42/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 30/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 30/300$$
$$m_{BCR5}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 30/300$$

f) In BCR6, the k-average is replaced by uniform redistribution of D_3 elements' masses to all D_1 elements included in each $W \in D_3$.

- The mass $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is equally split among each D_1 element included in $A \cup B$ (see the list of them in BCR4 above), hence $1/10$ of 0.1 to each.

- Similarly, $m_1(A \cup (B \cap C)) = 0.1$ is equally split among each D_1 element included in $A \cup (B \cap C)$, hence $1/8$ of 0.1 to each.

- And, in the same way, $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.1$ is equally split among each D_1 element included in $A \cup B \cup C$, hence $1/13$ of 0.1 to each.

Totalizing, one finally gets:

$$m_{BCR6}(B|B \cup C) = 820/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(C|B \cup C) = 1996/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 768/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 885/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(A \cap B \cap C|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(B \cap C|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(C \cap A|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(B \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 92/5200$$
$$m_{BCR6}(C \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 40/5200$$

g) In BCR7, $m(D_2)$ is also indiscriminately redistributed, but $m(D_3)$ is redistributed in a different more refined way.

- The mass $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B and $B \cap A$ since these are the only D_1 elements included in $A \cup B$ whose masses are non-zero, proportionally to their corresponding masses, i.e.

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{w_{B \cap A}}{0.1} = \frac{0.1}{0.2} = 0.5$$

  whence $x_B = 0.05$ and $w_{B \cap A} = 0.05$.

- $m_1(A \cup (B \cap C)) = 0.1$ is transferred to $B \cap A$ only since no other D_1 element with non-zero mass is included in $A \cup (B \cap C)$.

- $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.1$ is similarly transferred to B, C, $B \cap A$, $B \cup C$, i.e.

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{w_{B \cap A}}{0.1} = \frac{0.1}{0.5} = 0.2$$

  whence $x_B = 0.02$, $y_C = 0.04$, $z_{B \cup C} = 0.02$ and $w_{B \cap A} = 0.02$.

Totalizing, one finally gets:

$$m_{BCR7}(B|B \cup C) = 0.21$$
$$m_{BCR7}(C|B \cup C) = 0.32$$
$$m_{BCR7}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.16$$
$$m_{BCR7}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.31$$

h) In BCR8-11, since there is no $W \in D_3$ such that the sum of masses of D_1 elements included in W be zero, i.e. $s(W) \neq 0$, we can not deal with "k-elements", hence the results are identical to BCR7.

i) In BCR12, $m(D_2)$ is redistributed differently. $m_1(A) = 0.2$ is transferred to $(A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ since this is the 1-largest D_1 element included in A. $m(D_3)$ is transferred exactly as in BCR2. Finally, one gets:

$$m_{BCR12}(B|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR12}(C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{BCR12}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{BCR12}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR12}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A) \cup (B \cap C)|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR12}((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR12}(B \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 0.1$$

j) In BCR13, $m(D_2)$ is redistributed to the 1-smallest, i.e. to $A \cap B \cap C$ and $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR3. Therefore one gets:

$$m_{BCR13}(B|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR13}(C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{BCR13}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR13}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{BCR13}(A \cap B \cap C|B \cup C) = 0.5$$

k) In BCR14, $m_1(A) = 0.2$, where $A \in D_2$, is redistributed to the k-medians of $A \cap B \cap C$, $B \cap A$, $C \cap A$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$ which are included in A and belong to D_1. The 2-medians are $B \cap A$, $C \cap A$, hence each receives $1/2$ of 0.2. $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR4. Therefore one gets:

$$m_{BCR14}(B|B \cup C) = 30/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}(C|B \cup C) = 60/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 30/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 65/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}(B \cap C|B \cup C) = 5/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}(C \cap A|B \cup C) = 35/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$
$$m_{BCR14}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 25/300$$

l) In BCR15, $m_1(A) = 0.2$, where $A \in D_2$, is redistributed to the k-averages.

$$\frac{1}{4} \cdot [Card_{DSm}(A \cap B \cap C) + Card_{DSm}(B \cap C) + Card_{DSm}(C \cap A) + Card_{DSm}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A))]$$
$$= \frac{1 + 2 + 2 + 3}{4} = 2$$

Hence each of $B \cap C$, $C \cap A$ receives $1/2$ of 2; $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR5. Therefore one gets:

$$m_{BCR15}(B|B \cup C) = 3/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}(C|B \cup C) = 6/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 3/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 6/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}(C \cap A|B \cup C) = 3/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 3/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 3/30$$
$$m_{BCR15}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 3/30$$

m) In BCR16, $m_1(A) = 0.2$, where $A \in D_2$, is uniformly transferred to all D_1 elements included in A, i.e. to $A \cap B \cap C$, $B \cap A$, $C \cap A$, $(B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)$, hence each one receives $1/4$ of 0.2. $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR6. Therefore one gets:

$$m_{BCR16}(B|B \cup C) = 612/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(C|B \cup C) = 1080/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 560/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 937/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(A \cap B \cap C|B \cup C) = 417/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(B \cap C|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(C \cap A|B \cup C) = 417/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}((B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}((B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 417/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}((B \cap C) \cup (B \cap A) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 157/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(B \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 92/5200$$
$$m_{BCR16}(C \cup (B \cap A)|B \cup C) = 40/5200$$

n) In BCR17, $m_1(A) = 0.2$, where $A \in D_2$, is transferred to $B \cap A$ since $B \cap A \subset A$ and $m_1(B \cap A) > 0$. No other D_1 element with non-zero mass is included in A. $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR7. Therefore one gets:

$$m_{BCR17}(B|B \cup C) = 0.17$$
$$m_{BCR17}(C|B \cup C) = 0.24$$
$$m_{BCR17}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.12$$
$$m_{BCR17}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.47$$

o) BCR18-21 give the same result as BCR17 since no k-elements occur in these cases.

p) SCR does not work for free DSm models. But we can use the extended (from the power set 2^Θ to the hyperpower set D^Θ) Dempster's rule (see Daniel's Chapter [1]) in order to combine $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(B \cup C) = 1$, because the truth is in $B \cup C$, as in Shafer's conditioning rule. But since we have a free DSm model, no transfer is needed, hence Dempster's rule is reduced to DSm Classic rule (DSmC), which is a generalization of conjunctive rule. One gets:

$$m_{DSmC}(B|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{DSmC}(C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{DSmC}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{DSmC}(B \cap A|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{DSmC}((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)|B \cup C) = 0.2$$
$$m_{DSmC}(B \cup (A \cap C)|B \cup C) = 0.1$$
$$m_{DSmC}((A \cap B) \cup (B \cap C) \cup (C \cap A)|B \cup C) = 0.1$$

In the free DSm model, if the truth is in A, BCR12 gives the same result as $m_1(.)$ fusioned with $m_2(A) = 1$ using the classic DSm rule.

4.2 Example no. 2 (Shafer's model with non-Bayesian bba)

Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$ with Shafer's model and the following prior bba:

$$m_1(A) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(C) = 0.2$$

$$m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(B \cup C) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$$

Let's assume as conditioning constraint that the truth is in $B \cup C$. D^Θ is decomposed into

$$D_1 = \{B, C, B \cup C\}$$

$$D_2 = \{A\}$$

$$D_3 = \{A \cup B, A \cup C, A \cup B \cup C\}$$

The Venn Diagram corresponding to Shafer's model for this example is given in Figure 2 below.
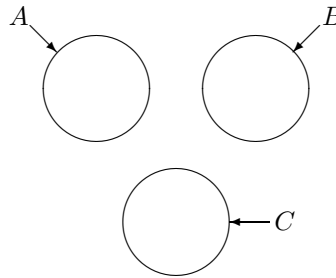

Figure 2: Venn Diagram for the 3D Shafer's model

a) In BCR1, $m(D_2 \cup D_3) = m_1(A) + m_1(A \cup B) + m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.6$ is redistributed to B, C, $B \cup C$, proportionally to their corresponding masses 0.1, 0.2, 0.1 respectively, i.e.

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{0.6}{0.4} = 1.5$$

whence $x_B = 0.15$, $y_C = 0.30$, $z_{B \cup C} = 0.15$ are added to the original masses of B, C, $B \cup C$ respectively. Finally, one gets with BCR1-based conditioning:

$$m_{BCR1}(B|B \cup C) = 0.25$$
$$m_{BCR1}(C|B \cup C) = 0.50$$
$$m_{BCR1}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.25$$

b) In BCR2, $m(D_2) = m_1(A) = 0.2$ and is indiscriminately distributed to B, C and $B \cup C$ proportionally to their corresponding masses, i.e.

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{0.2}{0.4} = 0.5$$

whence $x_B = 0.05$, $y_C = 0.10$, and $z_{B \cup C} = 0.05$.

For D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B (1-largest), $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to $A \cup B$. Finally, one gets with BCR2-based conditioning:

$$m_{BCR2}(B|B \cup C) = 0.25$$
$$m_{BCR2}(C|B \cup C) = 0.30$$
$$m_{BCR2}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$

c) In BCR3 for D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B (1-smallest), $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to B, C (2-smallest). Finally, one gets with BCR3-based conditioning:

$$m_{BCR3}(B|B \cup C) = 0.40$$
$$m_{BCR3}(C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$
$$m_{BCR3}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.15$$

d) In BCR4 for D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B (1-median), $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to B, C (2-medians). Finally, one gets same result as with BCR3, i.e.

$$m_{BCR4}(B|B \cup C) = 0.40$$
$$m_{BCR4}(C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$
$$m_{BCR4}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.15$$

e) In BCR5 for D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B. Let's compute

$$\frac{1}{3} \cdot [Card_{DSm}(B) + Card_{DSm}(C) + Card_{DSm}(B \cup C)] = \frac{1 + 1 + 2}{3} \approx 1$$

Hence 2-averages are B and C. So with BCR5, one gets same result as with BCR3, i.e.

$$m_{BCR5}(B|B \cup C) = 0.40$$
$$m_{BCR5}(C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$
$$m_{BCR5}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.15$$

f) In BCR6 for D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B (the only D_1 element included in $A \cup B$), $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to B, C, $B \cup C$, each one receiving $1/3$ of 0.3. Finally, one gets

$$m_{BCR6}(B|B \cup C) = 0.35$$
$$m_{BCR6}(C|B \cup C) = 0.40$$
$$m_{BCR6}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.25$$

g) In BCR7 for D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B since $B \subset A \cup B$ and $m(B) > 0$; $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to B, C, $B \cup C$ proportionally to their corresponding masses:

$$\frac{x_B}{0.1} = \frac{y_C}{0.2} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{0.1} = \frac{0.3}{0.4} = 0.75$$

whence $x_B = 0.075$, $y_C = 0.15$, and $z_{B \cup C} = 0.075$. Finally, one gets

$$m_{BCR7}(B|B \cup C) = 0.325$$
$$m_{BCR7}(C|B \cup C) = 0.450$$
$$m_{BCR7}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.225$$

h) BCR8-11 give the same result as BCR7 in this example, since there is no case of k-elements.

i) In BCR12: For D_2 for all BCR12-21, $m_1(A) = 0.2$ is redistributed to B, C, $B \cup C$ as in BCR2. $m(D_3)$ is redistributed as in BCR2. The result is the same as in BCR2.

j) BCR13-15 give the same result as in BCR3.

k) BCR16 gives the same result as in BCR6.

l) BCR17-21: For D_3, $m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1$ is transferred to B (no case of k-elements herein); $m_1(A \cup B \cup C) = 0.3$ is transferred to B, C, $B \cup C$ proportionally to their corresponding masses as in BCR7. Therefore one gets same result as in BCR7, i.e.

$$m_{BCR17}(B|B \cup C) = 0.325$$
$$m_{BCR17}(C|B \cup C) = 0.450$$
$$m_{BCR17}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.225$$

m) BCR22, 23, 24, 25, 26 give the same results as BCR7, 8, 9, 10, 11 respectively since D_2 is indiscriminately redistributed to D_1 elements.

n) BCR27, 28, 29, 30, 31 give the same results as BCR2, 3, 4, 5, 6 respectively for the same reason as previously.

o) If one applies the SCR, i.e. one combines with Dempster's rule $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(B \cup C) = 1$, because the truth is in $B \cup C$ as Glenn Shafer proposes, one gets:

$$m_{SCR}(B|B \cup C) = 0.25$$
$$m_{SCR}(C|B \cup C) = 0.25$$
$$m_{SCR}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.50$$

4.3 Example no. 3 (Shafer's model with Bayesian bba)

Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C, D\}$ with Shafer's model and the following prior Bayesian bba:

$$m_1(A) = 0.4 \qquad m_1(B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(C) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(D) = 0.3$$

Let's assume that one finds out that the truth is in $C \cup D$. From formulas of BCRs conditioning rules one gets the same result for all the BCRs in such example according to the following table

	A	B	C	D
$m_1(.)$	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3
$m_{BCR1-31}(.|C \cup D)$	0	0	0.40	0.60

Table 1: Conditioning results based on BCRs given the truth is in $C \cup D$.

Let's examine the conditional bba obtained directly from the *fusion* of the prior bba $m_1(.)$ with the belief assignment focused only on $C \cup D$, say $m_2(C \cup D) = 1$ using three main rules of combination (Dempster's rule, DSmH and PCR5). After elementary derivations, one gets final results given in Table 2. In the Bayesian case, all BCRs and Shafer's conditioning rule (with Dempster's rule) give the same result.

	A	B	C	D	$C \cup D$	$A \cup C \cup D$	$B \cup C \cup D$
$m_{DS}(.|C \cup D)$	0	0	0.40	0.60	0	0	0
$m_{DSmH}(.|C \cup D)$	0	0	0.20	0.30	0	0.40	0.10
$m_{PCR5}(.|C \cup D)$	0.114286	0.009091	0.20	0.30	0.376623	0	0

Table 2: Conditioning results based on Dempster's, DSmH and PCR5 fusion rules.

5 Classification of the BCRs

Let's note:
D_2^u = Redistribution of the whole D_2 is done undifferentiated to D_1
D_3^u = Redistribution of the whole D_3 is done undifferentiated to D_1
D_2^p = Redistribution of D_2 is particularly done from each $Z \in D_2$ to specific elements in D_1
D_3^p = Redistribution of D_3 is particularly done from each $W \in D_3$ to specific elements in D_1
D_2^s = D_2 is split into two disjoint subsets: one whose elements have the property that $s(W) \neq 0$, an another one such that its elements have $s(W) = 0$. Each subset is differently redistributed to D_1
D_3^s = D_3 is similarly split into two disjoint subsets, that are redistributed as in D_2^s.

Thus, we can organize and classify the BCRs as in Table 3. Other belief conditioning rules could also be defined according to Table 4. But in our opinions, the most detailed and exact transfer is done by BCR17. So, we suggest to use preferentially BCR17 for a pessimistic/prudent view on conditioning problem and a more refined redistribution of conflicting masses, or BCR12 for a very pessimistic/prudent view and less refined redistribution. If the Shafer's models holds for the frame under consideration, BCR12-21 will coincide with BCR2-11.

Ways of redistribution	Belief Conditioning Rule	Specific Elements
D_2^u, D_3^u	$BCR1$	
D_2^u, D_3^p	BCR2	$k-$ largest
	$BCR3$	$k-$ smallest
	$BCR4$	$k-$ median
	$BCR5$	$k-$ average
	$BCR6$	uniform distribution
D_2^u, D_3^s	BCR7	$k-$ largest
	$BCR8$	$k-$ smallest
	$BCR9$	$k-$ median
	$BCR10$	$k-$ average
	$BCR11$	uniform distribution
D_2^p, D_3^p	BCR12	$k-$ largest
	$BCR13$	$k-$ smallest
	$BCR14$	$k-$ median
	$BCR15$	$k-$ average
	$BCR16$	uniform distribution
D_2^s, D_3^s	BCR17	$k-$ largest
	$BCR18$	$k-$ smallest
	$BCR19$	$k-$ median
	$BCR20$	$k-$ average
	$BCR21$	uniform distribution

Table 3: Classification of Belief Conditioning Rules

In summary, the best among these BCR1-31, that we recommend to use, are: BCR17 for a pessimistic/prudent view on conditioning problem and a more refined redistribution of conflicting masses, or BCR12 for a very pessimistic/prudent view and less refined redistribution.

BCR17 does the most refined redistribution of all BCR1-31, i.e.
- the mass $m(W)$ of each element W in $D_2 \cup D_3$ is transferred to those $X \in D_1$ elements which are included in W if any proportionally with respect to their non-empty masses;
- if no such X exists, the mass $m(W)$ is transferred in a pessimistic/prudent way to the k-largest elements from D_1 which are included in W (in equal parts) if any;
- if neither this way is possible, then $m(W)$ is indiscriminately distributed to all $X \in D_1$ proportionally with respect to their nonzero masses.

BCR12 does the most pessimistic/prudent redistribution of all BCR1-31, i.e.:
- the mass $m(W)$ of each W in $D_2 \cup D_3$ is transferred in a pessimistic/prudent way to the k-largest elements X from D_1 which are included in W (in equal parts) if any;
- if this way is not possible, then $m(W)$ is indiscriminately distributed to all X from D_1 proportionally with respect their nonzero masses.

BCR12 is simpler than BCR17. BCR12 can be regarded as a generalization of SCR from the power set to the hyper-power set in the free DSm free model (all intersections non-empty). In this case the result of BCR12 is equal to that of $m_1(.)$ combined with $m_2(A) = 1$, when the truth is in A, using the DSm Classic fusion rule.

6   Properties for all BCRs

1. For any $X \notin \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{D}}(A) = D_1$, one has $m_{BCR}(X|A) = 0$ by definition.

Ways of redistribution	Belief Conditioning Rule	Specific Elements
D_2^p, D_3^s	BCR22	k − largest
	$BCR23$	k − smallest
	$BCR24$	k − median
	$BCR25$	k − average
	$BCR26$	uniform distribution
D_2^s, D_3^p	BCR27	k − largest
	$BCR28$	k − smallest
	$BCR29$	k − median
	$BCR30$	k − average
	$BCR31$	uniform distribution

Table 4: More Belief Conditioning Rules

2. One has:

$$\sum_{X \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{D}}(A)} m_{BCR}(X|A) = 1$$

This can be proven from the fact that $\sum_{X \in D^\Theta} m(X) = 1$. and $D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\} = D_1 \cup D_2 \cup D_3$, where D_1, D_2 and D_3 have no element in common two by two. Since all masses of all elements from D_2 and D_3 are transferred to the non-empty elements of D_1 using BCRs, no mass is lost neither gained, hence the total sum of masses remains equal to 1.

3. Let $\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_n\}$ and $A = \theta_1 \cup \theta_2 \cup \ldots \cup \theta_n$ be the total ignorance. Then, $m_{BCR1-31}(X|A) = m(X)$ for all X in D^Θ, because $D^\Theta \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ coincides with D_1. Hence there is no mass to be transferred from D_2 or D_3 to D_1 since D_2 and D_3 do not exist (are empty).

4. This property reduces all BRCs to the Bayesian formula: $m_{BCR}(X|A) = m(X \cap A)/m(A)$ for the trivial Bayesian case when focal elements are only singletons (no unions, neither intersections) and the truth is in one singleton only.

   Proof: Let's consider $\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, ..., \theta_n\}$, $n \geq 2$, and all θ_i not empty, and $D^\Theta \equiv \Theta$. Let's have a bba $m(.) : D^\Theta \mapsto [0, 1]$. Without loss of generality, suppose the truth is in θ_1 where $m(\theta_1) > 0$. Then $m_{BCR}(\theta_1|\theta_1) = 1$ and $m_{BCR}(X|\theta_1) = 0$ for all X different from θ_1. Then $1 = m_{BCR}(\theta_1|\theta_1) = m(\theta_1 \cap \theta_1)/m(\theta_1) = 1$, and for $i \neq 1$, we have $0 = m_{BCR}(\theta_i|\theta_1) = m(\emptyset)/m(\theta_1) = 0$.

5. In the Shafer's model, and a Bayesian bba $m(.)$, all BCR1-31 coincide with SCR. In this case the conditioning with BCRs and fusioning with Dempster's rule commute.

   Proof: In a general case we can prove it as follows: Let $\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_n\}$, $n \geq 2$, and without loss of generality lets suppose the truth is in $T = \theta_1 \cup \theta_2 \cup \ldots \cup \theta_p$, for $1 \leq p \leq n$. Lets consider two Bayesian masses $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$. Then we can consider all other elements θ_{p+1}, $\ldots$, θ_n as empty sets and in consequence the sum of their masses as the mass of the empty set (as in Smets open world). BCRs work now exactly as (or we can say it is reduced to) Dempster's rule redistributing this empty set mass to the elements in T proportionally with their nonzero corresponding mass. $D_1 = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_p\}$, $D_2 = \{\theta_{p+1}, \ldots, \theta_n\}$, D_3 does not exist. And redistributing in $m_1(.|T)$ this empty sets' mass to non-empty sets θ_1, θ_2, $\ldots$, θ_p using BCRs is equivalent to combining $m_1(.)$ with $m_S(\theta_1 \cup \theta_2 \cup \ldots \cup \theta_p) = 1$. Similarly for $m_2(.|T)$. Since Dempter's fusion rule and Shafer's conditioning rule commute and BCRs are reduced to Dempster's rule in a Shafer's model and Bayesian case, then BCRs commute with Dempsters fusion rule in this case. QED

6. In the free DSm model, BCR12 can be regarded as a generalization of SCR from the power set to the hyper-power set. The result of BCR12 conditioning of a mass $m_1(.)$, when the truth is in A, is equal to that of fusioning $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(A) = 1$, using the DSm Classic Rule.

7 Open question on conditioning versus fusion

It is not to difficult too verify that fusion rules and conditioning rules do not commute in general, except in Dempster-Shafer Theory because Shafer's fusion and conditioning rules are based on the same operator[2] (Dempster's rule), which make derivation very simple and appealing.

We however think that things may be much more complex in reality than what has been proposed up to now if we follow our interpretation of belief conditioning and do not see the belief conditioning as just a simple fusion of the prior bba with a bba focused on the conditioning event where the truth is (subjectively) supposed to be. From our belief conditioning interpretation, we make a strong difference between the fusion of several sources of evidences (i.e. combination of bba's) and the conditioning of a given belief assignment according some extra knowledge (carrying some objective/absolute truth on a given subset) on the model itself. In our opinion, the conditioning must be interpreted as a revision of bba according to new integrity constraint on the truth of the space of the solutions. Based on this new idea on conditioning, we are face to a new and very important open question which can be stated as follows[3]:

Let's consider two prior bba's $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ provided by two (cognitively) independent sources of evidences defined on D^Θ for a given model $\mathcal{M}$ (free, hybrid or Shafer's model) and then let's assume that the truth is known to be later on in a subset $A \in D^\Theta$, how to compute the combined conditional belief?

There are basically two possible answers to this question depending on the order the fusion and the conditioning are carried out. Let's denote by $\oplus$ the generic symbol for fusion operator (PCR5, DSmH or whatever) and by $Cond(.)$ the generic symbol for conditioning operator (typically BCRs).

1. Answer 1 (Fusion followed by conditioning (FC)):

$$m_{FC}(.|A) = Cond(m_1(.) \oplus m_2(.)) \tag{26}$$

2. Answer 2 (Conditioning followed by the fusion (CF)):

$$m_{CF}(.|A) = \underbrace{Cond(m_1(.))}_{m_1(.|A)} \oplus \underbrace{Cond(m_2(.))}_{m_2(.|A)} \tag{27}$$

Since in general[4] the conditioning and the fusion do not commute, $m_{FC}(.|A) \neq m_{CF}(.|A)$, the fundamental open question arises: How to justify the choice for one answer with respect to the other one (or maybe with respect to some other answers if any) to compute the combined conditional bba from $m_1(.)$, $m_2(.)$ and any conditioning subset A?

The only argumentation (maybe) for justifying the choice of $m_{FC}(.|A)$ or $m_{CF}(.|A)$ is only imposed by the possible temporal/sequential processing of sources and extra knowledge one receives, i.e. if one gets first $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ and later one knows that the truth is in A then $m_{FC}(.|A)$ seems intuitively suitable, but if one gets first $m_1(.)$ and A, and later $m_2(.)$, then $m_{CF}(.|A)$ looks in better agreement with the chronology of information one has received in that case. If we make abstraction of temporal processing, then this fundamental and very difficult question remains unfortunately totally open.

7.1 Examples of non commutation of BCR with fusion

7.1.1 Example no. 1 (Shafer's model and Bayesian bba's)

Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$ with Shafer's model and the following prior Bayesian bba's

$$m_1(A) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(B) = 0.6 \qquad m_1(C) = 0.2$$

---

[2]Proof of commutation between the Shafers conditioning rule and Dempsters rule: Let $m_1(.)$ be a bba and $m_S(A) = 1$. Then, because Dempsters rule, denoted $\oplus$, is associative we have $(m_1 \oplus m_S) \oplus (m_2 \oplus m_S) = m_1 \oplus (m_S \oplus m_2) \oplus m_S$ and because it is commutative we get $m_1 \oplus (m_2 \oplus m_S) \oplus m_S$ and again because it is associative we have: $(m_1 \oplus m_2) \oplus (m_S \oplus m_S)$; hence, since $m_S \oplus m_S = m_S$, it is equal to: $(m_1 \oplus m_2) \oplus m_S = m_1 \oplus m_2 \oplus m_S$, QED.

[3]The question can be extended for more than two sources actually.

[4]Because none of the new fusion and conditioning rules developed up to now satisfies the commutativity, but Dempster's rule.

$$m_2(A) = 0.1 \qquad m_2(B) = 0.4 \qquad m_2(C) = 0.5$$

Let's suppose one finds out the truth is in $A \cup B$ and let's examine the results $m_{CF}(.|A \cup B)$ and $m_{FC}(.|A \cup B)$ obtained from either the conditioning followed by the fusion, or the fusion followed by the conditioning.

- Case 1 : BCRs-based Conditioning followed by the PCR5-based Fusion

  Using BCRs for conditioning, the mass $m_1(C) = 0.2$ is redistributed to A and B proportionally to the masses 0.2 and 0.6 respectively; thus $x/0.2 = y/0.6 = 0.2/(0.2 + 0.6) = 1/4$ and therefore $x = 0.2 \cdot (1/4) = 0.05$ is added to $m_1(A)$, while $y = 0.6 \cdot (1/4) = 0.15$ is added to $m_1(B)$. Hence, one finally gets

  $$m_1(A|A \cup B) = 0.25 \qquad m_1(B|A \cup B) = 0.75 \qquad m_1(C|A \cup B) = 0$$

  Similarly, the conditioning of $m_2(.)$ using the BCRs, will provide

  $$m_2(A|A \cup B) = 0.2 \qquad m_2(B|A \cup B) = 0.8 \qquad m_2(C|A \cup B) = 0$$

  If one combines $m_1(.|A \cup B)$ and $m_2(.|A \cup B)$ with PCR5 fusion rule, one gets[5]

  $$m_{C_{BCRs}F_{PCR5}}(A|A \cup B) = 0.129198 \quad m_{C_{BCRs}F_{PCR5}}(B|A \cup B) = 0.870802$$

- Case 2 : PCR5-based Fusion followed by the BCRs-based Conditioning

  If one combines first $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ with PCR5 fusion rule, one gets

  $$m_{PCR5}(A) = 0.090476 \quad m_{PCR5}(B) = 0.561731 \quad m_{PCR5}(C) = 0.347793$$

  and if one applies any of BCR rules for conditioning the combined prior $m_{PCR5}(.)$, one finally gets

  $$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCRs}}(A|A \cup B) = 0.138723 \qquad m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCRs}}(B|A \cup B) = 0.861277$$

From cases 1 and 2, one has proved that there exists at least one example for which PCR5 fusion and BCRs conditioning do not commute since

$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCRs}}(.|A \cup B) \neq m_{C_{BCRs}F_{PCR5}}(.|A \cup B).$$

- Case 3 : BCRs-based Conditioning followed by Dempster's rule-based Fusion

  If we consider the same masses $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ and if we apply the BCRs to each of them, one gets

  $$m_1(A|A \cup B) = 0.25 \qquad m_1(B|A \cup B) = 0.75 \qquad m_1(C|A \cup B) = 0$$
  $$m_2(A|A \cup B) = 0.20 \qquad m_2(B|A \cup B) = 0.80 \qquad m_2(C|A \cup B) = 0$$

  then if one combines them with Dempsters rule, one finally gets

  $$m_{C_{BCRs}F_{DS}}(A|A \cup B) = 0.076923 \quad m_{C_{BCRs}F_{DS}}(B|A \cup B) = 0.923077$$

- Case 4 : Dempster's rule based Fusion followed by BCRs-based Conditioning

  If we apply first the fusion of $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(.)$ with Dempster's rule of combination, one gets

  $$m_{DS}(A) = 0.055555 \quad m_{DS}(B) = 0.666667 \quad m_{DS}(C) = 0.277778$$

  and if one applies BCRs for conditioning the prior $m_{DS}(.)$, one finally gets

  $$m_{F_{DS}C_{BCRs}}(A|A \cup B) = 0.076923 \qquad m_{F_{DS}C_{BCRs}}(B|A \cup B) = 0.923077$$

---

[5]We specify explicitly in notations $m_{CF}(.)$ and $m_{FC}(.)$ the type of the conditioning and fusion rules used for convenience, i.e $m_{C_{BCRs}F_{PCR5}}(.)$ means that the conditioning is based on BCRs and the fusion is based on PCR5.

From cases 3 and 4, we see that all BCRs (i.e. BCR1-BCR31) commute with Dempsters fusion rule in a Shafers model and Bayesian case since:

$$m_{F_{DS}C_{BCRs}}(.|A \cup B) = m_{C_{BCRs}F_{DS}}(.|A \cup B).$$

But this is a trivial result because in this specific case (Shafer's model with Bayesian bba's), we know (cf Property 5 in Section 6) that BCRs coincide with SCR and already know that SCR commutes with Dempter's fusion rule.

7.1.2 Example no. 2 (Shafer's model and non Bayesian bba's)

Let's consider $\Theta = \{A, B, C\}$ with Shafer's model and the following prior non Bayesian bba's

$$m_1(A) = 0.3 \qquad m_1(B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(C) = 0.2 \qquad m_1(A \cup B) = 0.1 \qquad m_1(B \cup C) = 0.3$$

$$m_2(A) = 0.1 \qquad m_2(B) = 0.2 \qquad m_2(C) = 0.3 \qquad m_2(A \cup B) = 0.2 \qquad m_2(B \cup C) = 0.2$$

Let's suppose one finds out the truth is in $B \cup C$ and let's examine the results $m_{CF}(.|B \cup C)$ and $m_{FC}(.|B \cup C)$ obtained from either the conditioning followed by the fusion, or the fusion followed by the conditioning. In this second example we only provide results for BCR12 and BCR17 since we consider them as the most appealing BCR rules. We decompose D^Θ into $D_1 = \{B, C, B \cup C\}$, $D_2 = \{A\}$ and $D_3 = \{A \cup B\}$.

- Case 1 : BCR12/BCR17-based Conditioning followed by the PCR5-based Fusion

  Using BCR12 or BCR17 for conditioning $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$, one gets herein the same result with both BCRs for each conditional bba, i.e.

$$m_1(B|B \cup C) = 0.25 \qquad m_1(C|B \cup C) = 0.30 \qquad m_1(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$

$$m_2(B|B \cup C) = 15/35 \qquad m_2(C|B \cup C) = 12/35 \qquad m_2(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 8/35$$

  If one combines $m_1(.|B \cup C)$ and $m_2(.|B \cup C)$ with PCR5 fusion rule, one gets

$$m_{C_{BCR17}F_{PCR5}}(.|B \cup C) = m_{C_{BCR12}F_{PCR5}}(.|B \cup C)$$

  with

$$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{PCR5}}(B|B \cup C) = 0.446229$$
$$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{PCR5}}(C|B \cup C) = 0.450914$$
$$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{PCR5}}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.102857$$

- Case 2 : PCR5-based Fusion followed by BCR12/BCR17-based Conditioning

  If one combines first $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ with PCR5 fusion rule, one gets

$$m_{PCR5}(A) = 0.236167 \quad m_{PCR5}(B) = 0.276500 \quad m_{PCR5}(C) = 0.333333$$

$$m_{PCR5}(A \cup B) = 0.047500 \quad m_{PCR5}(B \cup C) = 0.141612$$

  and if one applies any of BCR12 or BCR17 rules for conditioning the (combined) prior $m_{PCR5}(.)$, one finally gets the same final result with BCR12 and BCR17, i.e.

$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR17}}(.|B \cup C) = m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR12}}(.|B \cup C)$$

  with

$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR12}}(B|B \cup C) = 0.415159$$
$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR12}}(C|B \cup C) = 0.443229$$
$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR12}}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.141612$$

From cases 1 and 2, one has proved that there exists at least one example for which PCR5 fusion and BCR12/17 conditioning rules do not commute since

$$m_{F_{PCR5}C_{BCR12/17}}(.|B \cup C) \neq m_{C_{BCR12/17}F_{PCR5}}(.|B \cup C).$$

- Case 3 : BCR12/BCR17-based Conditioning followed by Dempster's rule-based Fusion

  If we consider the same masses $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ and if we apply the BCR12 or BCR17 to each of them, one gets same result, i.e.

  $$m_1(B|B \cup C) = 0.25 \qquad m_1(C|B \cup C) = 0.30 \qquad m_1(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 0.45$$

  $$m_2(B|B \cup C) = 15/35 \qquad m_2(C|B \cup C) = 12/35 \qquad m_2(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 8/35$$

  then if one combines them with Dempsters rule, one finally gets

  $$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{DS}}(B|B \cup C) = \frac{125}{275}$$

  $$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{DS}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{114}{275}$$

  $$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{DS}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{36}{275}$$

  and same result for $m_{C_{BCR17}F_{DS}}(.)$.

- Case 4 : Dempster's rule based Fusion followed by BCR12/BCR17-based Conditioning

  If we apply first the fusion of $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(.)$ with Dempster's rule of combination, one gets

  $$m_{DS}(A) = 10/59 \quad m_{DS}(B) = 22/59 \quad m_{DS}(C) = 19/59$$

  $$m_{DS}(A \cup B) = 2/59 \quad m_{DS}(B \cup C) = 6/59$$

  and if one applies BCR12 (or BCR17) for conditioning the prior $m_{DS}(.)$, one finally gets (same result is obtained with BCR17)

  $$m_{F_{DS}C_{BCR12}}(B|B \cup C) = \frac{1348}{2773}$$

  $$m_{F_{DS}C_{BCR12}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{1083}{2773}$$

  $$m_{F_{DS}C_{BCR12}}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = \frac{342}{2773}$$

  In BCR12, $m_{DS}(A) = 10/59$ is distributed to B, C, $B \cup C$ proportionally to their masses, i.e.

  $$\frac{x_B}{22/59} = \frac{y_C}{19/59} = \frac{z_{B \cup C}}{6/59} = \frac{10/59}{47/59} = \frac{10}{47}$$

  whence $x_B = (22/59) \cdot (10/47) = 220/2773$, $y_C = (19/59) \cdot (10/47) = 190/2773$ and $z_{B \cup C} = (6/59) \cdot (10/47) = 60/2773$, and $m_{DS}(A \cup B) = 2/59$ is distributed to B only, since B is the 1-largest.

  In BCR17, $m_{DS}(A) = 10/59$ is similarly distributed to B, C, $B \cup C$ and $m_{DS}(A \cup B)$ is also distributed to B only, since $B \subset A$ and $m_{DS}(B) > 0$ and B is the only element with such properties. Herein BCR12 and BCR17 give the same result.

Therefore from cases 3 and 4, we see that BCR12 (and BCR17) don't commute with Dempster's rule for Shafer's model and a non-Bayesian bba since

$$m_{C_{BCR12}F_{DS}}(.|B \cup C) \neq m_{F_{DS}C_{BCR12}}(.|B \cup C).$$

- Case 5 : SCR-based Conditioning followed by Dempster's rule based Fusion

  If we consider the masses $m_1(.)$ and $m_2(.)$ and if we apply the SCR to each of them for conditioning, one gets

  $$m_1(B|B \cup C) = 2/7 \qquad m_1(C|B \cup C) = 2/7 \qquad m_1(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 3/7$$

  $$m_2(B|B \cup C) = 4/9 \qquad m_2(C|B \cup C) = 3/9 \qquad m_2(B \cup C|B \cup C) = 2/9$$

  then if one combines them with Dempsters rule, one finally gets

  $$m_{C_{SCR}F_{DS}}(B|B \cup C) = \frac{24}{49} \quad m_{C_{SCR}F_{DS}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{19}{49} \quad m_{C_{SCR}F_{DS}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{6}{49}$$

- Case 6 : Dempster's rule based Fusion followed by the SCR-based Conditioning

  If we apply first the fusion of $m_1(.)$ with $m_2(.)$ with Dempster's rule of combination, one gets

  $$m_{DS}(A) = 10/59 \quad m_{DS}(B) = 22/59 \quad m_{DS}(C) = 19/59$$

  $$m_{DS}(A \cup B) = 2/59 \quad m_{DS}(B \cup C) = 6/59$$

  and if one applies SCR for conditioning the prior $m_{DS}(.)$, one finally gets

  $$m_{F_{DS}C_{SCR}}(B|B \cup C) = \frac{24}{49} \quad m_{F_{DS}C_{BCRs}}(C|B \cup C) = \frac{19}{49} \quad m_{F_{DS}C_{BCRs}}(B \cup C|B \cup C) = \frac{6}{49}$$

From cases 5 and 6, we verify that SCR commutes with Demspter's rule for Shafer's model and non-Bayesian bba[6] because

$$m_{C_{SCR}F_{DS}}(.|B \cup C) = m_{F_{DS}C_{SCR}}(.|B \cup C).$$

8   Conclusion

We have proposed in this paper several new Belief Conditioning Rules (BCRs) in order to adjust a given prior bba $m(.)$ with respect to the new conditioning information that have come in. The BCRs depend on the model of D^{Θ}. Several examples were presented that compared these BCRs among themselves and as well with Shafers Conditioning Rule (SCD). Except for SCD, in general the BCRs do not commute with the fusion rules, and the sequence in which they should be combined depends on the chronology of information received.

References

[1] Daniel M., *Classical Combination Rules Generalized to DSm Hyper-power Sets and their Comparison with the Hybrid DSm Rule*, in [8].

[2] Shafer G., *A Mathematical Theory of Evidence*, Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ, 1976.

[3] Smarandache F., Dezert J. (Editors), *Applications and Advances of DSmT for Information Fusion*, Collected Works, American Research Press, Rehoboth, June 2004, http://www.gallup.unm.edu/~smarandache/DSmT-book1.pdf.

[4] Smarandache F., Dezert J., *A Simple Proportional Conflict Redistribution Rule*, arXiv Archives, Los Alamos National Laboratory, July-August 2004; the Abstract and the whole paper are available at http://arxiv.org/abs/cs.AI/0408010 and at http://arxiv.org/PS_cache/cs/pdf/0408/0408010.pdf.

[5] Smarandache F., Dezert J., *A Simple Proportional Conflict Redistribution Rule*, in International Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Vol. 3, No. J05, pp. 1–36, 2005.

[6] Smarandache F., Dezert J., *Information Fusion Based on New Proportional Conflict Redistribution Rules*, Proc. of Fusion 2005, Philadelphia, July 26-29, 2005.

---

[6]This property has been proved by Shafer in [2].

[7] Smarandache F., Dezert J., *Proportional Conflict Redistribution Rules for Information Fusion*, in [8].

[8] Smarandache F., Dezert J. (Editors), *Applications and Advances of DSmT for Information Fusion*, Collected Works, Vol. 2, American Research Press, Rehoboth, July 2006.