

Gibbs Measures and Phase Transitions

Yaël Dillies, Kalle Kytölä, Kin Yau James Wong, following Hans-Otto Georgii

May 13, 2026

Chapter 0

Prerequisites

0.1 Lebesgue conditional expectation

Let (X, \mathcal{X}) be a measurable space, let \mathcal{B} be a sub σ -algebra of \mathcal{X} .

Definition 0.1 (Lebesgue conditional expectation). The **conditional expectation** of a \mathcal{X} -measurable function $f : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is

$$\mu[f|\mathcal{B}] = ??$$

Lemma 0.2 (Characterisation of the Lebesgue conditional expectation).

If $f : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is a \mathcal{X} -measurable function, then $\mu[f|\mathcal{B}]$ is the μ -ae unique \mathcal{B} -measurable function $X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ such that

$$\int_B \mu[f|\mathcal{B}] \, \partial\mu = \int_B f \, \partial\mu$$

for all $B \in \mathcal{B}$.

Proof. Standard machine. □

Chapter 1

Specifications of random fields

1.1 Preliminaries

Definition 1.1 (Juxtaposition). Let E and S be sets. Let $\Delta \in \mathcal{P}(S)$, and let $\omega \in E^S$. We define

$$\text{Juxt}_\omega : E^\Delta \rightarrow E^S \quad (1.1)$$

$$\zeta \mapsto \delta \mapsto \begin{cases} \zeta_\delta & \delta \in \Delta \\ \omega_\delta & \delta \notin \Delta \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

to be the **juxtaposition of ζ and ω** (for each $\zeta \in E^\Delta$).

Definition 1.2 (Cylinder events). Let (E, \mathcal{E}) be a measurable space, and let S be a set. Then,

$$\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \{\text{sigma algebras on } E^S\} \quad (1.3)$$

$$\Delta \mapsto \sigma(\{\text{proj}_\delta : E^S \rightarrow E \mid \delta \in \Delta\}) \quad (1.4)$$

defines the **cylinder events in Δ** (for each $\Delta \in \mathcal{P}(S)$), where each proj_δ is the coordinate projection at coordinate δ .

Definition 1.3 (Kernel). Let (X, \mathcal{X}) and (Y, \mathcal{Y}) be measurable spaces. Then,

$$\text{Ker}_{y, \mathcal{X}} := \{\pi : \mathcal{X} \times Y \rightarrow [0, \infty] \mid \forall y \in Y, \pi(\cdot \mid y) \in \mathfrak{M}(X, \mathcal{X}); \forall A \in \mathcal{X}, \pi(A \mid \cdot) \text{ is } \mathcal{Y}\text{-measurable}\}$$

defines the set of **kernels from \mathcal{Y} to \mathcal{X}** , where $\mathfrak{M}(X, \mathcal{X})$ is the space of measures on X .

Definition 1.4 (Markov kernel).

Let (X, \mathcal{X}) and (Y, \mathcal{Y}) be measurable spaces. We say that $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{y, \mathcal{X}}$ is a **Markov kernel** iff $\pi(X \mid \cdot) = 1$.

Let (X, \mathcal{X}) be a measurable space, let \mathcal{B} be a sub σ -algebra of \mathcal{X} . Let $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{X}}$.

Definition 1.5 (Proper kernel).

π is **proper** iff $\pi(A \cap B \mid x) = \pi(A \mid x) \cdot \mathbf{1}_B(x)$ for all $A \in \mathcal{X}$, $B \in \mathcal{B}$ and $x \in X$.

Lemma 1.6 (Lebesgue integral characterisation of proper kernels).

If π is proper, then

$$\int f(x)g(x) \pi(dx \mid x_0) = g(x_0) \int f(x) \pi(dx \mid x_0)$$

for all $x_0 \in X$ and functions $f, g : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ such that f is \mathcal{X} -measurable, g is \mathcal{B} -measurable.

Proof. Standard machine. □

Lemma 1.7 (Integral characterisation of proper kernels).

If π is a proper Markov kernel and g is a bounded function, then

$$\int f(x)g(x) \pi(dx | x_0) = g(x_0) \int f(x) \pi(dx | x_0)$$

for all $x_0 \in X$ and functions $f, g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that f is bounded \mathcal{X} -measurable and g is bounded \mathcal{B} -measurable.

Proof. Standard machine. □

Definition 1.8 (Conditional expectation kernel).

Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(X, \mathcal{X})$. Then, $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{X}}$ is a **conditional expectation kernel for μ** if $\mu(A | \mathcal{B}) = \pi(A | \cdot)$ μ -a.e.

Lemma 1.9 (Lebesgue integral characterisation of proper conditional expectation kernels).

If $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{X}}$ is a conditional expectation kernel for μ , then

$$\mu[f | \mathcal{B}] = \int f(x) \pi(dx | \cdot) \mu\text{-a.e.}$$

for all \mathcal{X} -measurable functions $f : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$.

Proof.

Standard machine. □

Lemma 1.10 (Integral characterisation of proper conditional expectation kernels).

If $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{X}}$ is a conditional expectation kernel for μ , then

$$\mu(f | \mathcal{B}) = \int f(x) \pi(dx | \cdot) \mu\text{-a.e.}$$

for all bounded \mathcal{X} -measurable functions $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Proof.

Standard machine. □

Lemma 1.11 (Characterisation of proper conditional expectation kernels, Remark 1.20).

Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(X, \mathcal{X})$ be a finite measure and let $\pi \in \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{X}}$ be a proper kernel. Then,

$$\pi \text{ is a conditional expectation kernel for } \mu \iff \mu\pi = \mu$$

Proof.

By the characterisation of conditional expectation,

$$\pi \text{ is a conditional expectation kernel for } \mu \iff \forall A \in \mathcal{X}, \forall B \in \mathcal{B}, \mu(A \cap B) = \int_B \pi(A | \cdot) \partial\mu$$

By properness of π ,

$$\int_B \pi(A | \cdot) \partial\mu = \mu\pi(A \cap B)$$

Hence

$$\pi \text{ is a cond. exp. kernel with respect to } \mu \iff \forall A \in \mathcal{X}, \forall B \in \mathcal{B}, \mu(A \cap B) = \mu\pi(A \cap B) \quad (1.5)$$

$$\iff \forall A \in \mathcal{X}, \mu(A) = \mu\pi(A) \quad (1.6)$$

$$\iff \mu = \mu\pi \quad (1.7)$$

□

1.2 Prescribing conditional probabilities

Definition 1.12 (Specification).

A **specification** is a family of kernels $\gamma : \text{Finset } S \rightarrow \text{Ker}_{\mathcal{F}_{S,\Lambda}, \mathcal{E}^S}$ which is **consistent**, in the sense that

$$\forall \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \in \text{Finset}(S), \Lambda_1 \subseteq \Lambda_2 \implies \gamma_{\Lambda_1} \circ_k \gamma_{\Lambda_2} = \gamma_{\Lambda_2}$$

All specifications will be with parameter set S and state space (E, \mathcal{E}) in this chapter.

Definition 1.13 (Independent specification).

A specification γ is **independent** iff

$$\forall \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \in \text{Finset}(S), \gamma_{\Lambda_1} \circ_k \gamma_{\Lambda_2} = \gamma_{\Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2}$$

Definition 1.14 (Markov specification).

A specification γ is a **Markov specification** iff γ_Λ is a probability kernel for every $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$.

Definition 1.15 (Proper specification).

A specification γ is **proper** iff the kernel γ_Λ is proper for every $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$.

Definition 1.16 (Gibbs measures). Given a specification γ , a **Gibbs measures specified by** γ is a measure $\nu \in \mathfrak{M}(E^S, \mathcal{E}^S)$ such that $\gamma_\Lambda(A|\cdot)$ is a conditional expectation kernel for ν for all $A \in \mathcal{E}^S$ and $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$.

Lemma 1.17 (Characterisation of Gibbs measures, Remark 1.24).

Let γ be a *proper* specification with parameter set S and state space (E, \mathcal{E}) , and let $\nu \in \mathfrak{P}(E^S, \mathcal{E}^S)$. TFAE:

1. $\nu \in \mathcal{G}(\gamma)$.
2. $\gamma_\Lambda \circ_m \nu = \nu$ for all $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$.
3. $\gamma_\Lambda \circ_m \nu = \nu$ frequently as $\Lambda \rightarrow S$.

Proof.

1 is equivalent to 2 by Lemma 1.9. 2 trivially implies 3. Now, 3 implies 2 because for each Λ there exists some $\Lambda' \supseteq \Lambda$ such that $\gamma_{\Lambda'} \circ_k \nu = \nu$. Then

$$\nu \gamma_\Lambda = \nu \gamma_{\Lambda'} \gamma_\Lambda = \nu \gamma_{\Lambda'} = \nu$$

□

1.3 λ -specifications

Let S be a set, (E, \mathcal{E}) be a measurable space and ν a measure on E .

Definition 1.18 (Product probability measure). Let I be a set. Suppose for each $i \in I$ that $(\Omega_i, \mathcal{B}_i, P_i)$ is a probability space. Then, $P := \bigotimes_{i \in I} P_i$ is a well-defined product probability measure on $\prod_{i \in I} \Omega_i$.

Definition 1.19 (Independent Specification with Single Spin Distribution (ISSSD)).

The **Independent Specification with Single Spin Distribution** ν is

$$\text{ISSSD} : \mathfrak{P}(E, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{Finset}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^S \times E^S \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}} \quad (1.8)$$

$$\nu \mapsto \Lambda \mapsto (A \mid \omega) \mapsto \left(\nu^\Lambda \left(\text{Juxt}_\omega^{-1}(A) \right) \right) \quad (1.9)$$

defines the **Independent Specification with Single Spin Distribution with** ν (for each $\nu \in \mathfrak{P}(E, \mathcal{E})$), where ν^Λ is the usual product measure.

Lemma 1.20 (Independence of ISSSDs).

$\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$ is independent.

Proof. Immediate. □

Definition 1.21 (ISSSDs are specifications).

$\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$ is a specification.

Lemma 1.22 (ISSSDs are proper specifications).

$\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$ is a proper specification.

Proof.

We already know it's a specification. Properness is immediate. □

Lemma 1.23 (Uniqueness of a Gibbs measure specified by an ISSSD).

There is at most one Gibbs measure specified by $\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$.

Proof.

See book. □

Lemma 1.24 (Existence of a Gibbs measure specified by an ISSSD).

The product measure ν^S is a Gibbs measure specified by $\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$.

Proof. Immediate. □

Definition 1.25 (Modifier).

A **modifier of** γ is a family

$$\rho : \text{Finset}(S) \rightarrow \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty[$$

such that the corresponding family of kernels $\rho\gamma$ is a specification.

Lemma 1.26 (Modifier of a modifier).

Modifying a specification γ by ρ_1 then ρ_2 is the same as modifying it by their product.

Proof. TODO □

Lemma 1.27 (A modifier of a proper specification is proper).

If γ is a specification and ρ a modifier of γ , then $\rho\gamma$ is a proper specification.

Proof.

For all $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$, $A \in \mathcal{E}^S$, $B \in \mathcal{F}_{S \setminus \Lambda}$, $\eta : S \rightarrow E$, we want to prove

$$(\rho\gamma)_\Lambda(A \cap B \mid \eta) = 1_B(\eta)(\rho\gamma)_\Lambda(AB \mid \eta)$$

Expanding out, this is equivalent to

$$\int_{\zeta \in A \cap B} \rho_\Lambda(\zeta) d(\gamma_\Lambda(\eta)) = 1_B(\eta) \int_{\zeta \in A} \rho_\Lambda(\zeta) d(\gamma_\Lambda(\eta))$$

which is true by Lemma 1.6 with $f = 1_A \rho_\Lambda$, $g = 1_B$. □

Lemma 1.28 (Every specification is a modification of some ISSSD, Remark 1.28.5).

If E is countable, ν is the counting measure and γ is any specification, then

$$\rho_\Lambda(\eta) = \gamma_\Lambda(\{\sigma_\Lambda = \eta_\Lambda\}|\eta)$$

is a modifier from ISSSD(ν) to γ .

Proof. For all $\Lambda \in \text{Finset}(S)$, A measurable, $\eta : S \rightarrow E$, we have

$$(\rho \text{ ISSSD}(\nu))_\Lambda(A|\eta) = \int_{\zeta} \rho_\Lambda(\zeta) \text{ISSSD}(\nu)(d\zeta|\eta) \quad (1.10)$$

$$= \int_{\zeta} \gamma_\Lambda(\{\sigma_\Lambda = \eta_\Lambda\}|\eta) \text{ISSSD}(\nu)(d\zeta|\eta) \quad (1.11)$$

$$= \gamma_\Lambda(A|\eta) \quad (1.12)$$

□

Proposition 1.29 (Characterisation of modifiers, Proposition 1.30.1).

If ρ is a family of measurable densities and γ is a proper specification, then TFAE

1. ρ is a modifier of γ
2. For all Λ_1, Λ_2 with $\Lambda_1 \subseteq \Lambda_2$ and all $\eta : S \rightarrow E$, we have

$$\rho_{\Lambda_2} = \rho_{\Lambda_1} \cdot (\gamma_{\Lambda_1} \rho_{\Lambda_2}) \quad \gamma_{\Lambda_2}(\cdot|\eta)\text{-a.e.}$$

Proof. • (\implies) $\rho_{\Lambda_2} = \rho_{\Lambda_1} \cdot (\gamma_{\Lambda_1} \rho_{\Lambda_2}) \quad \gamma_{\Lambda_2}(\cdot|\eta)\text{-a.e.}$

$$- \implies \rho_{\Lambda_2} \gamma_{\Lambda_2} =$$

□

Proposition 1.30 (Characterisation of modifiers of independent specifications, Proposition 1.30.2).

If ρ is a family of measurable densities and γ is a proper independent specification, then TFAE

1. ρ is a modifier of γ
2. For all Λ_1, Λ_2 with $\Lambda_1 \subseteq \Lambda_2$, $\eta : S \rightarrow E$ and $\gamma_{\Lambda_2 \setminus \Lambda_1}(\cdot|\alpha)$ -almost all $\eta_2 : S \rightarrow E$, we have

$$\rho_{\Lambda_2}(\zeta_1) \rho_{\Lambda_1}(\zeta_2) = \rho_{\Lambda_2}(\zeta_2) \rho_{\Lambda_1}(\zeta_1)$$

for $\gamma_{\Lambda_1}(\cdot|\eta_2) \times \gamma_{\Lambda_2}(\cdot|\eta_2)$ -almost all (ζ_1, ζ_2) .

Proof.

□

Definition 1.31 (Premodifier, Definition 1.31). A family of measurable functions $h_\Lambda : (S \rightarrow E) \rightarrow [0, \infty[$ is a **premodifier** if

$$h_{\Lambda_2}(\zeta) h_{\Lambda_1}(\eta) = h_{\Lambda_1}(\zeta) h_{\Lambda_2}(\eta)$$

for all $\Lambda_1 \subseteq \Lambda_2$ and all $\zeta, \eta : S \rightarrow E$ such that $\zeta_{\Lambda_1^c} = \eta_{\Lambda_1^c}$.

Lemma 1.32 (Modifiers are premodifiers). If ρ is a modifier of $\text{ISSSD}(\nu^S)$, then it is a premodifier if any of the following conditions hold:

1. E is countable and ν is equivalent to the counting measure.
2. E is a second countable Borel space.
3. ν is everywhere dense.
4. For all $\Lambda_1 \subseteq \Lambda_2$ and all $\eta : S \rightarrow E$, $\zeta \mapsto \rho_{\Lambda_1}(\zeta \eta_{\Lambda_1^c})$ is continuous on E^{Λ_1} .

Proof.

1. Use Proposition ??.
2. Omitted.
3. Omitted.
4. Omitted.

□

Lemma 1.33 (Premodifiers give rise to modifiers, Remark 1.32). If h is a premodifier and ν is such that $0 < \nu_\Lambda h_\Lambda < \infty$ for all Λ , then

$$\rho_\Lambda := \frac{h_\Lambda}{\text{ISSSD}(\nu)_\Lambda h_\Lambda}$$

is a modifier of $\text{ISSSD}(\nu)$.

Proof.

TODO

□

Chapter 2

Gibbsian specifications

2.1 Potentials