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# **Carnap's Relevance Measure as a Probabilistic Measure of Coherence**

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**Abstract** Tomoji Shogenji is generally assumed to be the first author to have presented a probabilistic measure of coherence. Interestingly, Rudolf Carnap in his *Logical Foundations of Probability* discussed a function that is based on the very same idea, namely his well-known relevance measure. This function is largely neglected in the coherence literature because it has been proposed as a measure of evidential support and still is widely conceived as such. The aim of this paper is therefore to investigate Carnap's measure regarding its plausibility as a candidate for a probabilistic measure of coherence by comparing it to Shogenji's. It turns out that both measures (i) satisfy and violate the same adequacy constraints, (ii) despite not being ordinally equivalent exhibit a strong correlation with each other in a Monte Carlo simulation and (iii) perform similarly in a series of test cases for probabilistic coherence measures.

### **1** Introduction

In his response to Klein and Warfield's (1994) rejection of the truth-conduciveness of coherence, Shogenji (1999) presented a mathematical function which is supposed to measure the degree of coherence of two propositions  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  under some joint probability distribution *P*, namely  $C_{sho}(x_1, x_2) = P(x_1 \wedge x_2)/P(x_1) \times P(x_2)$ . He also provided a straightforward generalization of this measure for any finite, non-empty, non-singleton set *X* of propositions under some probability function *P*:

$$C_{sho}(X) = P\left(\bigwedge_{x_i \in X} x_i\right) / \prod_{x_i \in X} P(x_i)$$

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For a set of probabilistically independent propositions Shogenji's measure equals 1 while for negatively/positively dependent propositions the measure takes values below/above this threshold value.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, a value of 1 is treated as neutral coherence value while values below/above 1 are interpreted as degrees of incoherence/coherence. The measure is therefore commonly understood as measuring coherence in terms of the ratio-wise deviation from probabilistic independence (cf. Shogenji 1999, 339–340; for criticism of this view or Shogenji's measure in general cf. e.g. Akiba 2000; Fitelson 2003; Wheeler 2009).

Now, it is quite interesting to see that Carnap (1950, §67) in his seminal *Logical Foundations of Probability* suggested a very similar function for measuring the degree to which a piece of evidence *e* (incrementally, not absolutely) confirms/ disconfirms a hypothesis *h* under some probability distribution *P*, his relevance measure  $r(h, e) = P(h \land e) - P(h) \times P(e)$ . Carnap's measure is obviously a special case of the following function which similar to Shogenji's generalization is defined for any non-empty, non-singleton set *X* rather than only pairs of propositions (*h*, *e*) under some probability function *P*:

$$C_{car}(X) = P\left(\bigwedge_{x_i \in X} x_i\right) - \prod_{x_i \in X} P(x_i)$$

Apparently, this function only differs from Shogenji's in using the difference instead of the ratio. But just like Shogenji's measure it also quantifies degree to which the propositions deviate from probabilistic independence. For this measure independence is associated with a value of 0 and values below/above this threshold indicate negative/positive dependence. Following the general interpretation of the Shogenji measure, it seems quite natural to interpret Carnap's measure as a candidate explication for coherence, measured in terms of the difference-wise deviation from probabilistic independence. This interpretation is not only very natural but it also provides new hope for Carnap's relevance measure since it is well documented in the literature that the measure fares rather poorly as a measure of confirmation (cf. e.g. Eells and Fitelson 2002; Crupi et al. 2007).<sup>2</sup>

There is also an improved, subset-sensitive version of Shogenji's measure by Schupbach (2011).<sup>3</sup> Based on Fitelson's (2003) observation that for a set X with n propositions Shogenji's measure only takes into account *n*-wise dependence neglecting the dependencies in the subsets, Schupbach suggested to apply a log-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> By definition, a set of propositions X is negatively dependent/independent/positively dependent if and only if  $P(\bigwedge_{x_i \in X} x_i) < / = / > \prod_{x_i \in X} x_i$  (cf. e.g. Kolmogorov 1956, §1.5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is also worth noticing that Carnap's interpretation of the measure slightly differs from what is usually assumed to be a confirmation measure. According to Carnap, the measure is supposed to quantify the *mutual* relevance two propositions have for each other as opposed to the *one-way* relevance one proposition, a piece of evidence *e*, might have for another proposition, a hypothesis *h* (cf. Carnap 1950, §67). This idea of mutual relevance also suggests to investigate Carnap's measure as a probabilistic measure of coherence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Other authors have presented probabilistic coherence measures as well, e.g. Douven and Meijs (2007), Fitelson (2003), Glass (2002), Meijs (2005), Olsson (2002), Roche (2013) and Schippers (2014). However, these measures will not be discussed here since they are not based on the idea of coherence as deviation from probabilistic independence. Nevertheless, a comparative study between the omitted and the included measures should be taken into consideration in future research.

normalization of Shogenji's measure to each  $X'_{ij}$  denoting X's *i*th subset with  $j \ge 2$  propositions and to calculate a weighted average over the resulting values, formally:

$$C_{sho}'(X) = \frac{\sum_{j=2}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{\binom{n}{j}} \log\left(C_{sho}(X_{ij}')\right) \times \binom{n}{j}^{-1}}{n-1}$$

The same generalization can be applied to Carnap's measure, resulting in a more fine-grained version of the measure. But since unlike Shogenji's measure Carnap's measure is point symmetric around its independence threshold 0, it does not need to be log-normalized:

$$C_{car}'(X) = \frac{\sum_{j=2}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{\binom{n}{j}} C_{car}(X_{ij}') \times \binom{n}{j}^{-1}}{n-1}$$

Now, the aim of this paper is rather straightforward. It is to examine whether  $C_{car}$  or  $C'_{car}$  are at least as plausible as candidates for probabilistic measures of coherence as  $C_{sho}$  and  $C'_{sho}$  respectively—especially if we keep in mind that  $C_{sho}$  and  $C'_{sho}$  are widely accepted as probabilistic measures of coherence. In order to do this we will compare the measures with respect to a set of coherence desiderata in Sect. 2 and with respect to a collection of coherence test cases from the literature in Sect. 3. Our findings are summarized in Sect. 4.

#### 2 Coherence Desiderata

In order to evaluate the adequacy of probabilistic coherence measures, several desiderata have been suggested in the literature. The idea underlying such desiderata is to formulate structural properties a coherence measure should have in order to be adequate. Recently, Schippers (2014) presented a survey of the desiderata discussed so far. We will inspect the introduced measures with respect to these desiderata and one further, more recent desideratum which is not included in Schippers' investigation. Proofs for the corresponding observations are given in the Appendix.

The first desideratum is due to Fitelson (2003). According to him, the degree of coherence of a set of propositions should be a function of the joint probabilistic dependencies of all subsets of this set:

- ( $D_1$ ) For any probability distribution P over a set X and any coherence measure C with neutrality threshold  $\theta_C$ :
  - 1.  $C(X) > \theta_C$  if all  $X' \subseteq X$  are positively dependent
  - 2.  $C(X) = \theta_C$  if all  $X' \subseteq X$  are independent
  - 3.  $C(X) < \theta_C$  if all  $X' \subseteq X$  are negatively dependent

As indicated above, the threshold values are  $\theta_{C_{sho}} = 0$  and  $\theta_{C'_{sho}} = \theta_{C_{car}} = \theta_{C_{car}} = 1$ . It can easily be shown that the following holds: **Observation 1**  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  satisfy  $D_1$ .

Since the measures are defined to measure the deviation from probabilistic independence, it is no wonder that they satisfy Fitelson's desideratum. Nevertheless, it is worth noticing that the idea underlying this desideratum is that the degree of coherence of a set of propositions does not only depend on the probabilistic dependence of the whole set but also depends on the probabilistic dependencies of all subsets. While  $C_{sho}$  and  $C_{car}$  only consider the total set,  $C'_{sho}$  are and  $C'_{car}$  also take into account its subsets.

The next desideratum has been proposed by Bovens and Olsson (2000) and generalized by Schippers (2014). Their intuition is that increasing conditional probabilities among the proposition in some set should increase its coherence, more formally:

(*D*<sub>2</sub>) Let *X*<sub>1</sub> and *X*<sub>2</sub> denote a set *X* under distribution *P*<sub>1</sub> and *P*<sub>2</sub> respectively and let X', X'' be non-empty, disjoint subsets of *X*. Then for any *X*<sub>1</sub>, *X*<sub>2</sub> and any coherence measure *C*: If  $P_1(\bigwedge_{x_i \in X'} x_i | \bigwedge_{x_j \in X''} x_j) > P_2(\bigwedge_{x_i \in X'} x_i | \bigwedge_{x_j \in X''} x_j)$  for all X', X'', then  $C(X_1) > C(X_2)$ .

Schippers (2014) elegantly showed that  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are jointly inconsistent. Relying on this result we can state the following:

**Observation 2**  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  do not satisfy  $D_2$ .

Fitelson (2003) and Siebel and Wolff (2008) have suggested another desideratum. For them, logical equivalence is the prime example of maximal coherence. Since Fitelson's desideratum is restricted to satisfiable propositions, we refer to Siebel and Wolff's more general version for any kinds of propositions:

 $(D_3)$  For any probability distribution *P* over a set *X* of logically equivalent propositions and any coherence measure *C*:  $C(X) = \max(C)$ .

As can be seen by counterexample, the following holds:

**Observation 3**  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  do not satisfy  $D_3$ .

Still, it is worth noticing that the measures do not behave identically. For a set X of logically equivalent propositions  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  it holds that  $P(x_1) = \ldots = P(x_n)$ , which entails that  $C_{sho}(X) = 1/P(x_i)^{n-1}$  and  $C_{car}(X) = P(x_i) - P(x_i)^n$  for any  $x_i \in X$ . Hence, in cases of low but non-zero/high  $P(x_i)$  Shogenji's measure assigns high/low or neutral degrees of coherence. Carnap's measure, however, strongly depends on the number of propositions n. For instance, for n = 2 Carnap's measure has a maximum of 0.25 only if  $P(x_i) = 0.5$  and assigns low degrees of coherence in cases of low and high  $P(x_i)$ . For n > 2 the maximum value of 0.25 can be exceeded and the measure assigns high degrees of coherence only if  $P(x_i)$  is high but not 1. Fitelson (2003) already noted that  $C_{sho}$ 's behaviour in the aforementioned cases is highly counter-intuitive. Now, it seems that  $C_{car}$  does not behave any better. Since these effects carry over to the alternative generalizations as well, the measures should be avoided for sets of equivalent propositions.

The next desideratum by Fitelson (2003) can be viewed as the counterpart to  $D_3$ . Just as logical equivalence can be considered the prime example of maximal coherence, unsatisfiability of all subsets can be considered the prime example of minimal coherence:

 $(D_4)$  For any probability distribution *P* over a set *X* where each  $X' \subseteq X$  is unsatisfiable and any coherence measure *C*:  $C(X) = \min(C)$ .

Regarding this desideratum we can state the following:

**Observation 4**  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  do not satisfy  $D_4$ .

As with the aforementioned desideratum there are some subtle differences between the measures. If each  $X' \subseteq X$  is unsatisfiable including the singleton subsets, then  $P(x_i) = 0$  for all  $x_i \in X$ , which entails that  $C_{sho}(X)$  and hence  $C'_{sho}(X)$ are undefined, whereas  $C_{car}(X) = C'_{car}(X) = 0$ . However, if all singleton subsets of X are satisfiable and only all non-singleton subsets are unsatisfiable it holds that  $C_{sho}(X) = 0$  and  $C'_{sho}(X)$  is undefined whereas  $C_{car}(X) < 0$  and  $C'_{car}(X) < 0$ . Hence, Shogenji's measure is minimal indicating the strongest degree of incoherence while Carnap's measure assigns values ranging from neutral coherence to degrees of incoherence. It seems that the measures are only of limited use for the assessment of unsatisfiable sets of propositions.

Recently, Shogenji (2013) himself formulated a desideratum. The idea is that the degree of coherence of some set of propositions should increase *ceteris paribus* with increasing joint probability of the propositions and decrease *ceteris paribus* with an increasing product of the marginal probabilities of the propositions:

- (*D*<sub>5</sub>) For any probability distribution *P* over a set  $X = \{x_1, x_2\}$  and any coherence measure *C*:
  - 1. C(X) is an increasing function of  $P(x_1 \wedge x_2)$
  - 2. C(X) is a decreasing function of  $P(x_1) \times P(x_2)$
  - 3. C(X) is neutral if  $P(x_1 \wedge x_2) = P(x_1) \times P(x_2)$

According to Shogenji, the following holds:

**Observation 5**  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  satisfy  $D_5$ .

It is quite interesting to see that Shogenji (2013) himself has noticed that aside from his own measure Carnap's measure also satisfies his desideratum.

The results from above can be summarized in the following Table 1 where 1 indicates satisfaction and 0 violation of the corresponding desideratum:

	$C_{sho}$	$C_{car}$	$C_{sho}'$	$C'_{car}$
$D_1$	1	1	1	1
$D_2$	0	0	0	0
$D_3$	0	0	0	0
$D_4$	0	0	0	0
$D_5$	1	1	1	1

 Table 1
 Summary of the results

Table 2         Cross-correlation           matrix for the measures		$C_{sho}$	$C_{car}$	$C_{sho}'$	$C'_{car}$
	$C_{sho}$	1	0.972	0.992	0.954
	$C_{car}$	0.972	1	0.966	0.980
	$C'_{sho}$	0.992	0.966	1	0.968
	$C'_{car}$	0.954	0.980	0.968	1

Apparently, all measures satisfy and violate the same five desiderata that have been put forward in the coherence literature. These similarities might raise the suspicion that the measures are just ordinally equivalent versions of each other.<sup>4</sup> But this can easily be refuted:

# **Observation 6** No pair in $\{C_{sho}, C_{car}, C'_{sho}, C'_{car}\}$ is ordinally equivalent.

This observation guarantees that the measures can disagree in judging a set of propositions more or less coherent than another set. Hence, despite the aforementioned similarities the measures are in fact different and have distinct characteristics regarding their coherence assessments.

Nevertheless, the measures are highly correlated with each other, as can be shown using Monte Carlo simulation methods.<sup>5</sup> For this simulation 1 million joint probability assignments over 3 propositions were generated using the Mersenne-Twister algorithm (cf. Matsumoto and Nishimura 1998). For each assignment, the corresponding values of the measures have been recorded in order to calculate a cross-correlation matrix containing Spearman's (1904) rank correlation coefficient (Pearson's (1895) product moment correlation coefficient cannot be applied here since it assumes a linear relationship between the variables) ranging from -1 indicating maximum anti-correlation to 1 indicating maximum correlation (Table 2).

As the Table 2 indicates, there is a strong correlation of 0.972 between  $C_{sho}$  and  $C_{car}$  and 0.968 between  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$ . This means that increasing/decreasing  $C_{sho}$  or  $C'_{sho}$  values are strongly associated with increasing/decreasing  $C_{car}$  or  $C'_{car}$  values.

The evaluation of the coherence desiderata and the simulation results suggest that Carnap's measure and its alternative generalization are indeed very closely related to Shogenji's and its alternative generalization. And since Shogenji's measure and Schupbach's alternative version are commonly interpreted as probabilistic measures of coherence, there seems to be no good reason why this interpretation should not be applicable to Carnap's measure and its alternative generalization as well. With this in mind, we will examine the measures in a series of test cases for probabilistic coherence measures in the next section.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> By definition, two measures  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are ordinally equivalent if and only if for all sets  $X_1, X_2$  it holds that  $C_1(X_1) < / = / > C_1(X_2)$  if and only if  $C_2(X_1) < / = / > C_2(X_2)$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A similar approach has been employed by Tentori et al. (2007) for Bayesian measures of confirmation. For a comprehensive introduction to Monte Carlo methods see e.g. Hammersley and Handscomb (1964).

### **3** Coherence Test Cases

Test cases have proven to be both convenient and efficient for the evaluation of probabilistic coherence measures. They typically consist of a scenario providing probabilistic information about one or more sets of propositions and a normative coherence assessment for these sets. If a measure disagrees with this coherence assessment and the assessment has strong intuitive support, then the measure is to be considered inadequate.

In a recent study, Koscholke (2015) submitted several measures to 11 test cases from the literature. They include Akiba's (2000) die case  $T_1$ , BonJour's (1985) raven case  $T_2$ , Bovens and Hartmann's (2003) Tweety case  $T_3$ , their Tokyo case  $T_4$ , their culprit case  $T_5$ , Glass' (2005) dodecahedron case  $T_6$ , Meijs' (2005) Samurai sword case  $T_7$  and his (2005) rabbit case  $T_8$ , Meijs and Douven's (2005) plane lottery case  $T_9$ , Schupbach's (2011) robber case  $T_{10}$  and Siebel's 2004 pickpocketing case  $T_{11}$ . We will complement this collection by Schippers and Siebel's (2015) inconsistent testimonies case  $T_{12}$  which is not included in Koscholke's survey. The results are summarized in the Table 3. Here, 1 indicates a positive test case result while 0 indicates a negative result.

Apparently, there are only four test cases in which the measures differ, namely  $T_7$ ,  $T_9$ ,  $T_{10}$  and  $T_{12}$ . Let us briefly take a look at them.

Meijs' (2005) samurai sword test case runs as follows. Imagine that a murder occurred in a large city and we are interested in finding the murderer. Imagine the following two situations:

Situation There are ten million independent and equally likely suspects. 1059
1: suspects are Japanese, 1059 suspects own a Samurai sword, 9 suspects are Japanese and own a Samurai sword.
Situation There are 100 independent and equally likely suspects. 10 suspects are Japanese, 10 suspects own a Samurai sword, 9 suspects are Japanese
2: Japanese, 10 suspects own a Samurai sword, 9 suspects are Japanese

Now, consider the following two propositions:

and own a Samurai sword.

- $x_1$ : The murderer is Japanese.
- $x_2$ : The murderer owns a Samurai sword.

Meijs argues that  $X_1$  denoting  $\{x_1, x_2\}$  in situation 1 is less coherent than  $X_2$ , the same set in situation 2. The measures give the following verdicts (Table 4).

Table 3	Summary	of	the	test
case resu	lts			

	$T_1$	$T_2$	$T_3$	$T_4$	$T_5$	$T_6$	$T_7$	$T_8$	$T_9$	$T_{10}$	$T_{11}$	<i>T</i> <sub>12</sub>
$C_{sho}$	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
$C_{car}$	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
$C'_{sho}$	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$C'_{car}$	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1

<b>Table 4</b> Results for Meijs'samurai sword case		$X_1$	<i>X</i> <sub>2</sub>	Result
	$C_{sho}$	80.3	9	0
	$C_{car}$	0.00000889	0.08	1
	$C'_{sho}$	1.9	0.954	0
	$C'_{car}$	0.00000889	0.08	1

Here, Shogenji's measure and its alternative version disagree with Meijs' coherence assessment by assigning a higher degree of coherence to  $X_1$  than to  $X_2$ . By contrast, Carnap's measure and its alternative generalization do the trick.

In Meijs and Douven's (2005) plane lottery test case we are asked to imagine a person participating in a lottery consisting of a random flight in a windowless plane. Her chances for flying to the following locations are as follows: 4/100 for the North Pole, 49/100 for the South Pole and 47/100 for New Zealand. The probability of seeing a penguin given she is on the South Pole is 10/49, in New Zealand 1/47 and on the North Pole 0. Suppose that she leaves the plane not knowing where she has landed, facing an unrecognizable animal. Now, consider that she is confronted with the following three propositions:

 $x_1$ : The animal you see is a penguin.

 $x_2$ : You are on the North Pole.

 $x_3$ : You are on the South Pole.

According to Meijs and Douven, the set  $X_1 = \{x_1, x_2\}$  is less coherent than  $X_2 = \{x_1, x_3\}$  since there are no penguins on the Northpole. The results are as follows (Table 5).

Apparently, only the alternative generalization of Shogenji's measure fails in this test case due to an undefined function value for  $X_1$ .<sup>6</sup>

The next test case is Schupbach's (2011) robber case. Imagine eight equally likely suspects for a robbery and consider the following independent and equally reliable witness reports:

- $x_1$ : The robbery was committed by suspect 1, 2 or 3.
- $x_2$ : The robbery was committed by suspect 1, 2 or 4.
- $x_3$ : The robbery was committed by suspect 1, 3 or 4.
- $x_4$ : The robbery was committed by suspect 1, 4 or 5.
- $x_5$ : The robbery was committed by suspect 1, 6 or 7.

According to Schupbach,  $X_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  is more coherent than  $X_2 = \{x_1, x_4, x_5\}$  since the agreement about who is the robber is much stronger in  $X_1$  than in  $X_2$ . Let us take a look at the measures' verdicts (Table 6).

 $<sup>^{6}</sup>$  Here and in the following tables 'NaN' is short for 'not a number' indicating undefined function values due to division by 0 or log(0). Following Siebel and Wolff (2008), undefined function values are interpreted as suspended coherence assessments.

<b>Table 5</b> Results for Meijs andDouven's plane lottery case		$X_1$	$X_2$	Result
	$C_{sho}$	0	1.86	1
	$C_{car}$	-0.004	0.046	1
	$C'_{sho}$	NaN	0.268	0
	$C'_{car}$	-0.004	0.046	1
<b>Table 6</b> Results forSchupbach's robber case		$X_1$	<i>X</i> <sub>2</sub>	Result
	$C_{sho}$	2.37	2.37	0
	$C_{car}$	0.0723	0.0723	0
	$C'_{sho}$	0.312	0.162	1
	$C'_{car}$	0.0908	0.0283	1

This case is a problem for  $C_{sho}$  and  $C_{car}$  since both measures treat  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  as equally coherent. Their alternative generalizations, however, master the test case. This is no surprise since Schupbach formulated this test case as an argument for his subset-sensitive generalization of Shogenji's measure.

Finally, with their inconsistent testimonies case Schippers and Siebel (2015) presented a modification of Schupbach's test case. Suppose there are 6 suspects and each of them is equally likely to be the culprit. Now, consider the following independent and equally reliable witness reports:

- $x_1$ : The criminal was either suspect 1 or 2.
- $x_2$ : The criminal was either suspect 2 or 3.
- $x_3$ : The criminal was either suspect 1 or 3.
- $x_4$ : The criminal was either suspect 3 or 4.
- $x_5$ : The criminal was either suspect 5 or 6.

Obviously,  $X_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  and  $X_2 = \{x_1, x_4, x_5\}$  are inconsistent. But the propositions in  $X_1$  are at least pairwise consistent whereas in  $X_2$  they are not. Accordingly, Schippers and Siebel argue that  $X_1$  should be more coherent than  $X_2$ . Here are the results (Table 7).

Apparently, only the alternative generalization of Carnap's measure masters this case. The other measures fail because they are either undefined or treat both sets as equally coherent.

<b>Table 7</b> Results for Siebel andSchippers' inconsistent		$X_1$	$X_2$	Result
testimonies case	$C_{sho}$	0	0	0
	$C_{car}$	-0.037	-0.037	0
	$C'_{sho}$	NaN	NaN	0
	$C'_{car}$	0.009	-0.074	1

The evaluation of the test cases shows that Carnap's measure and its alternative generalization perform quite well compared to Shogenji's and its alternative version. Every test case mastered by Shogenji's measure is also mastered by Carnap's measure and every test case mastered by the alternative generalization of Shogenji's measure is also mastered by the alternative generalization of Carnap's measure. Thus, Carnap's measure and especially its alternative version represent quite promising candidates for probabilistic measures of coherence.

### 4 Conclusion

The results from Sect. 2 point out strong similarities between Shogenji's coherence measure and Schupbach's alternative generalization on the one hand and Carnap's relevance measure and its alternative generalization on the other. Based on these similarities it seems rational to claim that Carnap's measure and its alternative version are at least as plausible as candidates for a probabilistic coherence measure as Shogenji's measure and its refined version. Additionally, the results from Sect. 3 show that in a number of test cases Carnap's measure and its refined version provide coherence assessments several philosophers have argued to be intuitively correct for the respective cases. Hence, Carnap's measure and especially its fine-grained version can be considered promising candidates for a probabilistic measure of coherence as Shogenji's measure and Schupbach's alternative generalization. This does, of course, not mean that Carnap actually proposed a probabilistic measures of coherence. Rather, it means that the function Carnap proposed as a candidate for a measure of confirmation can more fruitfully be interpreted as a candidate probabilistic measure of coherence. It should therefore be included in future research on probabilistic coherence measures.

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## Appendix

*Proof* (*Observation* 1) For  $C_{sho}$  cf. Schippers (2014). For  $C_{car}$  inspect the definition of independence. If all  $X' \subseteq X$  are positively dependent/independent/negatively dependent then (trivially) X is also positively dependent/independent/negatively dependent. It is obvious that the following equivalent transformation holds:

$$P\left(\bigwedge_{x_i\in X} x_i\right) \stackrel{\leq}{\equiv} \prod_{x_i\in X} P(x_i) \iff P\left(\bigwedge_{x_i\in X} x_i\right) - \prod_{x_i\in X} P(x_i) \stackrel{\leq}{\equiv} 0$$

The expression on the right hand side is nothing but Carnap's measure  $C_{car}$  and 0 is its threshold value. It therefore satisfies  $D_1$ . Since  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  take into account the degrees of coherence of all subsets of a target set X they trivially satisfy  $D_1$ , too. *Proof* (*Observation* 2) Cf. Schippers (2014) for a proof that there can be no coherence measure C which satisfies both  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Since by observation 1  $C_{sho}$ ,  $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  satisfy  $D_1$ , they cannot satisfy  $D_2$ .

*Proof* (*Observation* 3) Consider the following probability distribution over the set  $X = \{x_1, x_2\}$  of logically equivalent propositions as counterexample:  $P(x_1) = P(x_2) = P(x_1 \land x_2) = 1$  and hence  $C_{sho} = 1$  and  $C'_{sho} = C_{car}(X) = C'_{car}(X) = 0$  which is not the maximum value of any of the measures. Hence, the measures do not satisfy  $D_3$ .

*Proof* (*Observation* 4) Consider the following probability distribution over the set  $X = \{x_1, x_2\}$  of inconsistent propositions as counterexample:  $P(x_1 \land x_2) = P(x_1) = P(x_2) = 0$ . For  $C_{sho}(X)$  and  $C'_{sho}(X)$  the function values are not defined while  $C_{car}(X) = C'_{car}(X) = 0$ . Hence, none of the measures yields its minimum value and therefore none satisfies  $D_4$ .

*Proof* (*Observation* 5) For  $C_{sho}$  and  $C_{car}$  cf. Shogenji (2013). Since  $D_5$  is formulated for 2 propositions,  $C'_{sho}$  and  $C'_{car}$  trivially satisfy  $D_5$ , too.

*Proof* (*Observation* 6) Meijs' (2005) test case is a counterexample against the ordinal equivalence of the pairs ( $C_{sho}$ , $C_{car}$ ), ( $C_{sho}$ , $C_{car}$ ), ( $C_{sho}$ , $C_{car}$ ) and ( $C'_{sho}$ , $C'_{car}$ ). Schupbach's (2011) test case is a counterexample against the ordinal equivalence of the pairs ( $C_{sho}$ ,  $C'_{sho}$ ) and ( $C_{car}$ ,  $C'_{car}$ ).

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