Bayes Nets (continued) [RN2] Section 14.4 [RN3] Section 14.4

CS 486/686
University of Waterloo
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Outline

- Inference in Bayes Nets
- Variable Elimination

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Inference in Bayes Nets

- The independence sanctioned by D-separation (and other methods) allows us to compute prior and posterior probabilities quite effectively.

- We'll look at a few simple examples to illustrate. We'll focus on networks without *loops*. (A loop is a cycle in the underlying *undirected* graph. Recall the directed graph has no cycles.)

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Simple Forward Inference (Chain)

- Computing marginal requires simple forward "propagation" of probabilities

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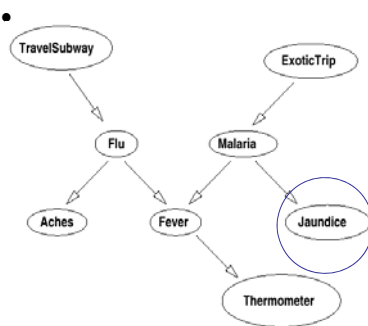
$P(J) = \Sigma_{M,ET} P(J,M,ET)$
  (marginalization)

$P(J) = \Sigma_{M,ET} P(J|M,ET)P(M|ET)P(ET)$
  (chain rule)

$P(J) = \Sigma_{M,ET} P(J|M)P(M|ET)P(ET)$
  (conditional independence)

$P(J) = \Sigma_M P(J|M) \Sigma_{ET} P(M|ET)P(ET)$
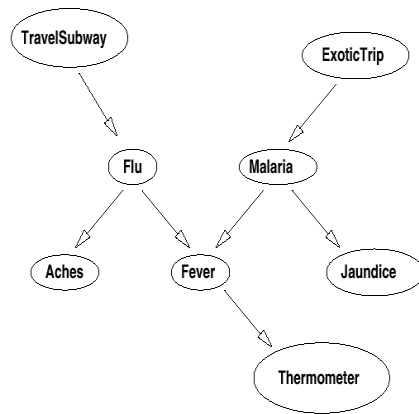 (distribution of sum)

Note: all (final) terms are CPTs in the BN
Note: only ancestors of J considered

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Simple Forward Inference (Chain)

- Same idea applies when we have "upstream" evidence

$P(J|ET) = \Sigma_M P(J,M|ET)$
(marginalisation)

$P(J|ET) = \Sigma_M P(J|M,ET) \, P(M|ET)$
(chain rule)

$P(J|ET) = \Sigma_M P(J|M) \, P(M|ET)$
(conditional independence)

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Simple Forward Inference (Pooling)

- Same idea applies with multiple parents

$P(Fev) = \Sigma_{Flu,M,TS,ET} P(Fev,Flu,M,TS,ET)$

$= \Sigma_{Flu,M,TS,ET} P(Fev|Flu,M,TS,ET) \, P(Flu|M,TS,ET)$
$\qquad\qquad P(M|TS,ET) \, P(TS|ET) \, P(ET)$

$= \Sigma_{Flu,M,TS,ET} P(Fev|Flu,M) \, P(Flu|TS) \, P(M|ET) \, P(TS) \, P(ET)$

$= \Sigma_{Flu,M} P(Fev|Flu,M) \, [\Sigma_{TS} P(Flu|TS) \, P(TS)]$
$\qquad\qquad [\Sigma_{ET} P(M|ET) \, P(ET)]$

- (1) by marginalisation; (2) by the chain rule;
  (3) by conditional independence; (4) by distribution
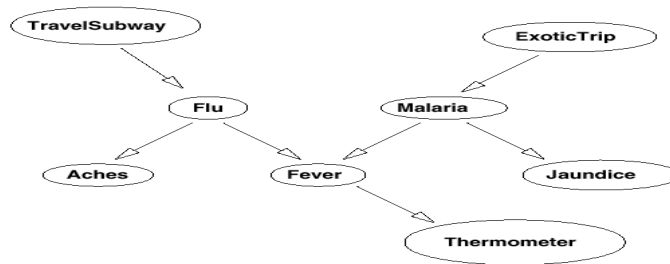 - note: all terms are CPTs in the Bayes net

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Simple Forward Inference (Pooling)

- Same idea applies with evidence

  $P(Fev|ts,\sim m) = \Sigma_{Flu} P(Fev,Flu|ts,\sim m)$

  $= \Sigma_{Flu} P(Fev |Flu,ts,\sim m) P(Flu|ts,\sim m)$

  $= \Sigma_{Flu} P(Fev|Flu,\sim m) P(Flu|ts)$

Simple Backward Inference

- When evidence is downstream of query variable, we must reason "backwards." This requires the use of Bayes rule:

  $P(ET | j) = \alpha P(j | ET) P(ET)$

  $= \alpha \Sigma_M P(j,M|ET) P(ET)$

  $= \alpha \Sigma_M P(j|M,ET) P(M|ET) P(ET)$

  $= \alpha \Sigma_M P(j|M) P(M|ET) P(ET)$

- First step is just Bayes rule
  - normalizing constant α is $1/P(j)$; but we needn't compute it explicitly if we compute $P(ET | j)$ for each value of ET: we just add up terms $P(j | ET) P(ET)$ for all values of ET (they sum to $P(j)$)

Backward Inference (Pooling)

- Same ideas when several pieces of evidence lie "downstream"

  $P(ET|j,fev) = \alpha\, P(j,fev|ET)\, P(ET)$

  $= \alpha \sum_{M,Fl,TS} P(j,fev,M,Fl,TS|ET)\, P(ET)$

  $= \alpha \sum_{M,Fl,TS} P(j|fev,M,Fl,TS,ET)\, P(fev|M,Fl,TS,ET)$
  $\qquad P(M|Fl,TS,ET)\, P(Fl|TS,ET)\, P(TS|ET)\, P(ET)$

  $= \alpha\, P(ET) \sum_M P(j|M)\, P(M|ET) \sum_{Fl} P(fev|M,Fl) \sum_{TS}$
  $\qquad P(Fl|TS)\, P(TS)$

  – Same steps as before; but now we compute prob of both pieces of evidence given hypothesis ET and combine them. Note: they are independent given M; but not given ET.

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Variable Elimination

- The intuitions in the above examples give us a simple inference algorithm for networks without loops: the *polytree* algorithm.
- Instead we'll look at a more general algorithm that works for general BNs; but the polytree algorithm will be a special case.
- The algorithm, **variable elimination**, simply applies the summing out rule repeatedly.
  - To keep computation simple, it exploits the independence in the network and the ability to distribute sums inward

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Factors

- A function $f(X_1, X_2, ..., X_k)$ is also called a *factor*. We can view this as a table of numbers, one for each instantiation of the variables $X_1, X_2, ..., X_k$.
  - A tabular rep'n of a factor is exponential in k
- Each CPT in a Bayes net is a factor:
  - e.g., $Pr(C|A,B)$ is a function of three variables, A, B, C
- Notation: $f(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y})$ denotes a factor over the variables $\mathbf{X} \cup \mathbf{Y}$. (Here $\mathbf{X}$, $\mathbf{Y}$ are *sets* of variables.)

The Product of Two Factors

- Let $f(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y})$ & $g(\mathbf{Y},\mathbf{Z})$ be two factors with variables $\mathbf{Y}$ in common
- The *product* of f and g, denoted h = f × g (or sometimes just h = fg), is defined:

$$h(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y},\mathbf{Z}) = f(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}) \times g(\mathbf{Y},\mathbf{Z})$$

f(A,B)		g(B,C)		h(A,B,C)			
ab	0.9	bc	0.7	abc	0.63	ab~c	0.27
a~b	0.1	b~c	0.3	a~bc	0.08	a~b~c	0.02
~ab	0.4	~bc	0.8	~abc	0.28	~ab~c	0.12
~a~b	0.6	~b~c	0.2	~a~bc	0.48	~a~b~c	0.12

Summing a Variable Out of a Factor

- Let $f(X,\mathbf{Y})$ be a factor with variable X ($\mathbf{Y}$ is a set)
- We *sum out* variable X from f to produce a new factor $h = \Sigma_X f$, which is defined:

$$h(\mathbf{Y}) = \Sigma_{x \in Dom(X)} f(x,\mathbf{Y})$$

f(A,B)		h(B)	
ab	0.9	b	1.3
a~b	0.1	~b	0.7
~ab	0.4		
~a~b	0.6		

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Restricting a Factor

- Let $f(X,\mathbf{Y})$ be a factor with variable X ($\mathbf{Y}$ is a set)
- We *restrict* factor f *to* $X=x$ by setting X to the value x and "deleting". Define $h = f_{X=x}$ as: $h(\mathbf{Y}) = f(x,\mathbf{Y})$
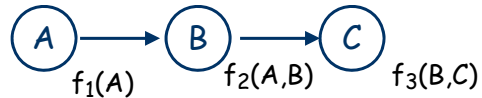
f(A,B)		h(B) = $f_{A=a}$	
ab	0.9	b	0.9
a~b	0.1	~b	0.1
~ab	0.4		
~a~b	0.6		

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Variable Elimination: No Evidence

- Computing prior probability of query var X can be seen as applying these operations on factors

$$A \xrightarrow{\quad} B \xrightarrow{\quad} C$$
$$f_1(A) \qquad f_2(A,B) \qquad f_3(B,C)$$

- $P(C) = \Sigma_{A,B} \, P(C|B) \, P(B|A) \, P(A)$

   $= \Sigma_B \, P(C|B) \, \Sigma_A \, P(B|A) \, P(A)$

   $= \Sigma_B \, f_3(B,C) \, \Sigma_A \, f_2(A,B) \, f_1(A)$

   $= \Sigma_B \, f_3(B,C) \, f_4(B) = f_5(C)$

Define new factors: $f_4(B) = \Sigma_A \, f_2(A,B) \, f_1(A)$ and $f_5(C) = \Sigma_B \, f_3(B,C) \, f_4(B)$

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Variable Elimination: No Evidence

- Here's the example with some numbers

$$A \xrightarrow{\quad} B \xrightarrow{\quad} C$$
$$f_1(A) \qquad f_2(A,B) \qquad f_3(B,C)$$
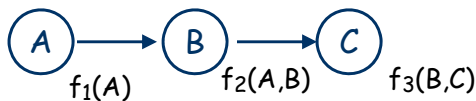
$f_1(A)$		$f_2(A,B)$		$f_3(B,C)$		$f_4(B)$		$f_5(C)$	
a	0.9	ab	0.9	bc	0.7	b	0.85	c	0.625
~a	0.1	a~b	0.1	b~c	0.3	~b	0.15	~c	0.375
		~ab	0.4	~bc	0.2				
		~a~b	0.6	~b~c	0.8				

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VE: No Evidence (Example 2)

$f_1(A)$ $\;(A)$

$f_2(B)$ $\;(B)$ $\;(C)\;$ (D)
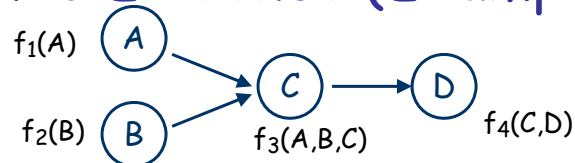
$f_3(A,B,C)$ $\qquad$ $f_4(C,D)$

$P(D) = \Sigma_{A,B,C}\; P(D|C)\, P(C|B,A)\, P(B)\, P(A)$

$\qquad = \Sigma_C\; P(D|C)\, \Sigma_B\, P(B)\, \Sigma_A\, P(C|B,A)\, P(A)$

$\qquad = \Sigma_C\; f_4(C,D)\, \Sigma_B\, f_2(B)\, \Sigma_A\, f_3(A,B,C)\, f_1(A)$

$\qquad = \Sigma_C\; f_4(C,D)\, \Sigma_B\, f_2(B)\, f_5(B,C)$

$\qquad = \Sigma_C\; f_4(C,D)\, f_6(C)$

$\qquad = \; f_7(D)$

Define new factors: $f_5(B,C)$, $f_6(C)$, $f_7(D)$, in the obvious way

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Variable Elimination: One View

- One way to think of variable elimination:
  - write out desired computation using the chain rule, exploiting the independence relations in the network
  - arrange the terms in a convenient fashion
  - distribute each sum (over each variable) in as far as it will go
    - i.e., the sum over variable X can be "pushed in" as far as the "first" factor mentioning X
  - apply operations "inside out", repeatedly eliminating and creating new factors (note that each step/removal of a sum eliminates one variable)

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Variable Elimination Algorithm

- Given query var Q, remaining vars **Z**. Let F be the set of factors corresponding to CPTs for {Q} ∪ **Z**.

1. Choose an elimination ordering $Z_1, \ldots, Z_n$ of variables in **Z**.
2. For each Z_j -- in the order given -- eliminate $Z_j \in$ **Z** as follows:
      (a) Compute new factor $g_j = \Sigma_{Zj} f_1 \times f_2 \times \ldots \times f_k$,
         where the f_i are the factors in F that include Z_j
      (b) Remove the factors f_i (that mention Z_j) from F
        and add new factor g_j to F
3. The remaining factors refer only to the query variable Q. Take their product and normalize to produce P(Q)

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VE: Example 2 again

Factors: $f_1(A)$ $f_2(B)$ $f_3(A,B,C)$ $f_4(C,D)$
Query: P(D)?
Elim. Order: A, B, C

$f_1(A)$ (A)

$f_2(B)$ (B)

(C) → (D)
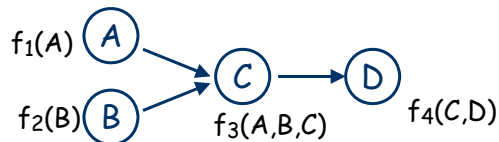
$f_3(A,B,C)$ $f_4(C,D)$

Step 1: Add $f_5(B,C) = \Sigma_A f_3(A,B,C) f_1(A)$
      Remove: $f_1(A)$, $f_3(A,B,C)$
Step 2: Add $f_6(C) = \Sigma_B f_2(B) f_5(B,C)$
      Remove: $f_2(B)$, $f_5(B,C)$
Step 3: Add $f_7(D) = \Sigma_C f_4(C,D) f_6(C)$
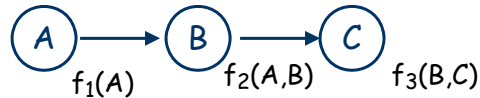   Remove: $f_4(C,D)$, $f_6(C)$
Last factor $f_7(D)$ is (possibly unnormalized) probability P(D)

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Variable Elimination: Evidence

- Computing posterior of query variable given evidence is similar; suppose we observe $C=c$:

$$A \xrightarrow{} B \xrightarrow{} C$$
$$f_1(A) \qquad f_2(A,B) \qquad f_3(B,C)$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
P(A|c) &= \alpha\, P(A)\, P(c|A) \\
&= \alpha\, P(A) \sum_B P(c|B)\, P(B|A) \\
&= \alpha\, f_1(A) \sum_B f_3(B,c)\, f_2(A,B) \\
&= \alpha\, f_1(A) \sum_B f_4(B)\, f_2(A,B) \\
&= \alpha\, f_1(A)\, f_5(A) \\
&= \alpha\, f_6(A)
\end{aligned}
$$

New factors: $f_4(B) = f_3(B,c)$; $\quad f_5(A) = \sum_B f_2(A,B)\, f_4(B)$;
$\quad f_6(A) = f_1(A)\, f_5(A)$

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Variable Elimination with Evidence

Given query var Q, evidence vars **E** (observed to be **e**), remaining vars **Z**. Let F be set of factors involving CPTs for $\{Q\} \cup$ **Z**.

1. Replace each factor $f \in F$ that mentions a variable(s) in **E** with its restriction $f_{\textbf{E}=\textbf{e}}$ (somewhat abusing notation)
2. Choose an elimination ordering $Z_1, \ldots, Z_n$ of variables in **Z**.
3. Run variable elimination as above.
4. The remaining factors refer only to the query variable Q. Take their product and normalize to produce $P(Q)$

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VE: Example 2 again with Evidence

Factors: $f_1(A)$ $f_2(B)$ $f_3(A,B,C)$ $f_4(C,D)$
Query: P(A)?
Evidence: D = d
Elim. Order: C, B

$f_1(A)$ (A)
$f_2(B)$ (B) (C) → (D)
$f_3(A,B,C)$ $f_4(C,D)$
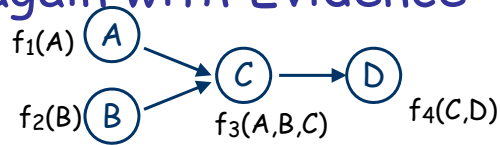
Restriction: replace $f_4(C,D)$ with $f_5(C) = f_4(C,d)$

Step 1: Add $f_6(A,B) = \Sigma_C f_5(C) f_3(A,B,C)$
 Remove: $f_3(A,B,C)$, $f_5(C)$

Step 2: Add $f_7(A) = \Sigma_B f_6(A,B) f_2(B)$
 Remove: $f_6(A,B)$, $f_2(B)$

Last factors: $f_7(A)$, $f_1(A)$. The product $f_1(A) \times f_7(A)$ is (possibly unnormalized) posterior. So… $P(A|d) = \alpha f_1(A) \times f_7(A)$.

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Some Notes on the VE Algorithm

- After iteration j (elimination of Z_j), factors remaining in set F refer only to variables $X_{j+1}, … Z_n$ and Q. No factor mentions an evidence variable E after the initial restriction.
- Number of iterations: linear in number of variables
- Complexity is linear in number of vars and exponential in size of the largest factor.
  - Recall each factor has exponential size in its number of variables
  - Can't do any better than size of BN (since its original factors are part of the factor set)
  - When we create new factors, we might make a set of variables larger.

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Some Notes on the VE Algorithm

- The size of the resulting factors is determined by elimination ordering! (We'll see this in detail)
- For *polytrees*, easy to find good ordering (e.g., work outside in).
- For general BNs, sometimes good orderings exist, sometimes they don't (then inference is exponential in number of vars).
  - Simply *finding* the optimal elimination ordering for general BNs is NP-hard.
  - Inference in general is NP-hard in general BNs

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Elimination Ordering: Polytrees

- Inference is linear in size of network
  - ordering: eliminate only "singly-connected" nodes
  - e.g., in this network, eliminate D, A, C, X1,…; or eliminate X1,… Xk, D, A, C; or mix up…
  - result: no factor ever larger than original CPTs
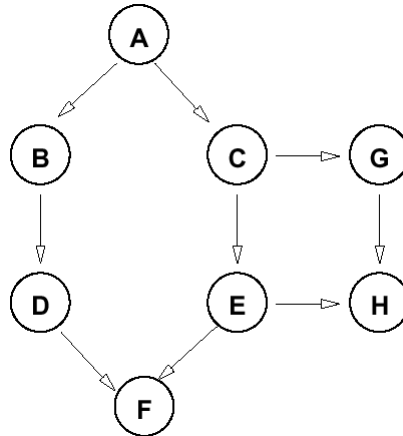 - eliminating B before these gives factors that include all of A,C, X1,… Xk !!!

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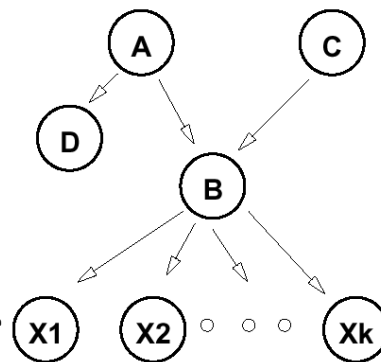
Effect of Different Orderings

- Suppose query variable is D. Consider different orderings for this network
  - A,F,H,G,B,C,E:
    - good: why?
  - E,C,A,B,G,H,F:
    - bad: why?
- Which ordering creates smallest factors?
  - either max size or total
- which creates largest factors?

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Relevance

- Certain variables have no impact on the query.
  - In ABC network, computing Pr(A) with no evidence requires elimination of B and C.
    - But when you sum out these vars, you compute a trivial factor (whose value are all ones); for example:
    - eliminating C: $f_4(B) = \Sigma_C f_3(B,C) = \Sigma_C Pr(C|B)$
    - 1 for any value of B   (e.g., Pr(c|b) + Pr(~c|b) = 1)
- No need to think about B or C for this query

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Relevance: A Sound Approximation

- Can restrict attention to *relevant* variables. Given query Q, evidence **E**:
  - Q is relevant
  - if any node Z is relevant, its parents are relevant
  - if E∈**E** is a descendent of a relevant node, then E is relevant
- We can restrict our attention to the *subnetwork comprising only relevant variables* when evaluating a query Q