

# Probabilistic Graph Models: Belief Propagation

**ECE/CS 498 DS U/G**

**Lecture 18**

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# Announcements

- Graduate projects proposal due on Friday, April 5
- No discussion section on Friday, April 5
  - Additional office hours will be held in place of it in CSL 141 from 4-5pm
- Mid course feedback summary
- Schedule of the class moving forward

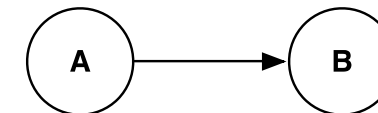
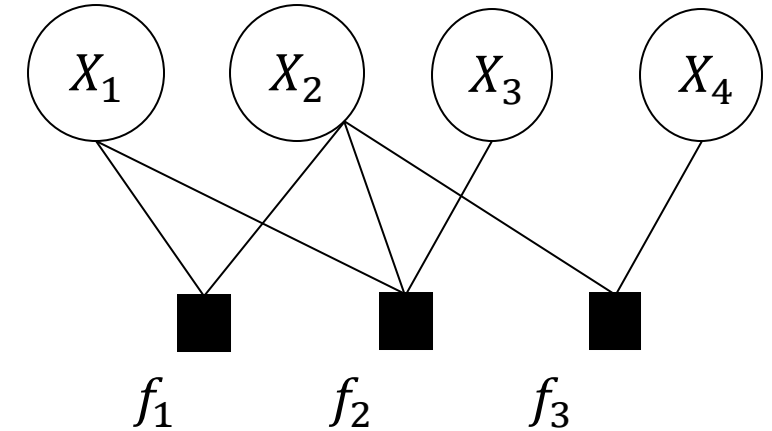
Week 13	4/8	Belief Propagation continued
	4/10	In-class Activity 5 on PGMs
Week 14	4/15	Supervised Learning (SVM, decision trees, RF)
	4/17	Perceptron Model and Neural Networks
Week 15	4/22	In-class Activity 6 (tentative) on Neural Network + Supervised Learning
	4/24	Intro to Deep Learning Challenges in Deep Learning Compare Deep Neural Nets (DNN) vs. Probabilistic Graphical Models (PGMs) using an Example Dataset
Week 16	4/29	Review problems for Final Exam
	5/2	Reading Day

# Recap: Definition of a Factor Graph

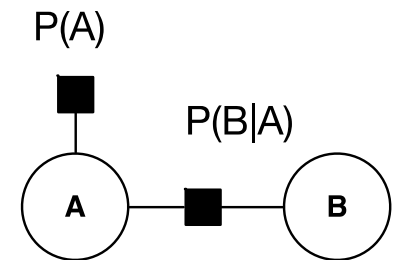
A factor graph is a **bipartite, undirected graph** of **random variables** and **factor functions**.  
[Frey et. al. 01].

$G(\text{graph}) = (X, f, E)$ ;  $E$  denotes the edges

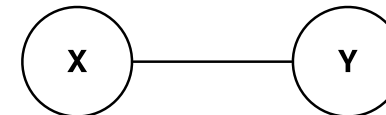
*FG can represent both **causal** and **non-causal** relations.*



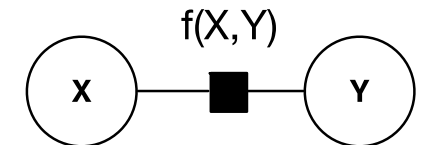
Bayesian Network  
(BN)



Factor Graph  
equivalent of BN



Undirected Graph



Factor Graph  
equivalent of UG

# Modeling the credential stealing attack using Factor Graphs - Data

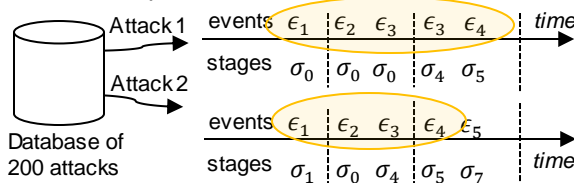
State space of variables

Attack stage:  $X = \{\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_7\}$

(Observed) Events:  $E = \{\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_5\}$

## OFFLINE ANNOTATION ON PAST ATTACKS

a) Annotated events and attack stages in a pair of attacks



b) Event-stage annotation table for the attack pair (Attack 1 and Attack 2)

Event	Attack stage
$\{\epsilon_1\}$	$\{\sigma_0 \sigma_1\}$
$\{\epsilon_2\}$	$\{\sigma_0\}$
$\{\epsilon_3\}$	$\{\sigma_4\}$
$\{\epsilon_4\}$	$\{\sigma_5\}$
$\{\epsilon_5\}$	$\{\sigma_7\}$

$\epsilon_1$	vulnerability scan	$\sigma_0$	benign
$\epsilon_2$	login	$\sigma_1$	discovery
$\epsilon_3$	sensitive_uri	$\sigma_4$	privilege escalation
$\epsilon_4$	new_library	$\sigma_5$	persistence

- Multi-stage credential stealing attack where the attack stage is not observed; however events which are related to the attack stage are observed
- Goal is to detect and pre-empt the attack
- **Model assumptions**
  - There are multivariate relationships among the events
  - There is no restriction on order of the relationships (can be non-causal or correlation based)
- Markov Model and Bayesian Networks cannot be used in this scenarios
- Factor graphs can be used for modeling highly complex attacks, where the causal relations among the events are not immediately clear.

# Modeling the credential stealing attack using Factor Graphs

## OFFLINE LEARNING OF FACTOR FUNCTIONS

Example patterns, stages, probabilities, and significance learned from the attack pair

Pattern	Attack stages	Probability in past attacks	Significance (p-value)
$[\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4]$	$[\sigma_1, \sigma_4, \sigma_5]$	$q_a$	$p_a$
$[\epsilon_1]$	$[\sigma_0   \sigma_1]$	$q_b$	$p_b$



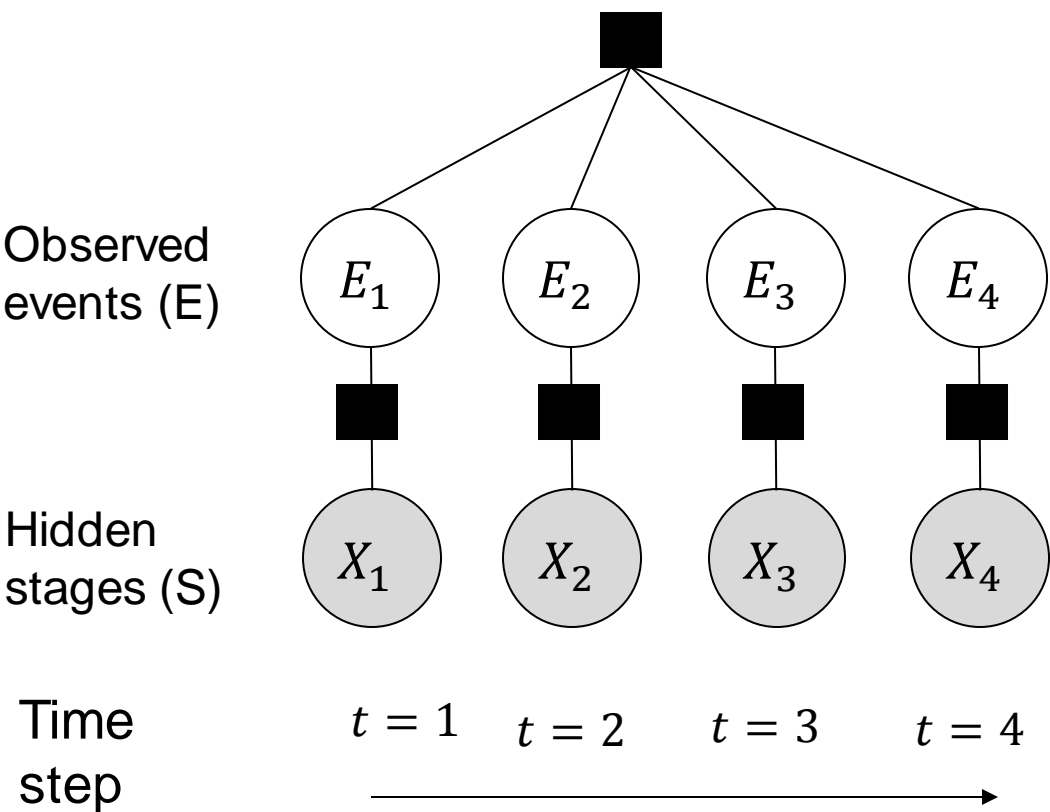
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■  $f(E) = \exp\{q_E(1 - p_E)\}$

A factor function defined on the learned pattern, stages, and its significance

## DETECTION OF UNSEEN ATTACKS

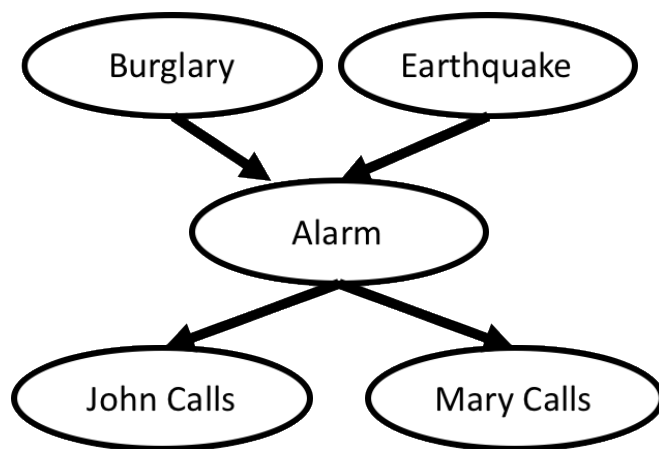
Factor Graph



# Inference on Graphical Models

Problems we have already looked at:

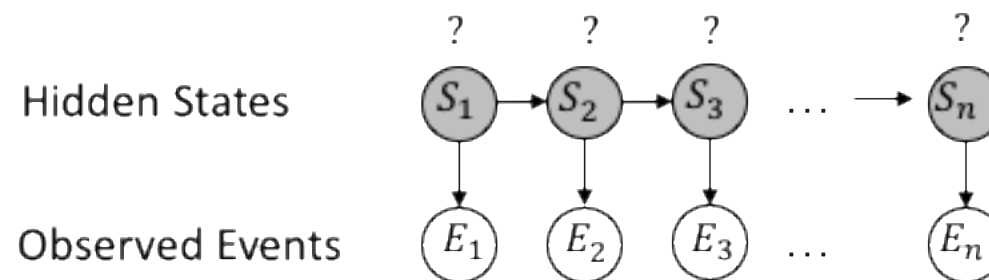
## Bayes Network



Calculate the joint probability  $P(B, J, A, E, M)$   
 $= P(J|A) P(M|A) P(A|B, E) P(B) P(E)$

Calculate the state probability  $P(B) = \sum_{J, A, E, M} P(B, J, A, E, M)$

## Hidden Markov Model



Calculate the conditional distribution  $P(S_t | E_1, \dots, E_n)$

Factorize (Bayes Theorem)

$$\propto P(S_t | E_1, \dots, E_t) * P(E_{t+1}, \dots, E_n | S_t, E_1, \dots, E_t)$$

Use the Markov Property

$$= P(S_t | E_1, \dots, E_t) * P(E_{t+1}, \dots, E_n | S_t)$$

Forward Backward Algorithm

$$= \alpha_t \odot \beta_t$$

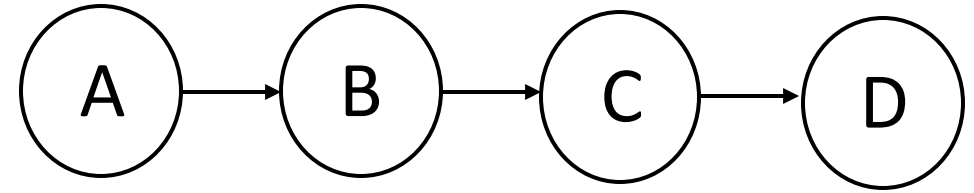
**Just involves computation of joint distributions and its marginalization**

# Example of inference on a Bayesian Network

Consider the following Bayesian Network

- $A \in \{a^1, a^2\}, B \in \{b^1, b^2\}, C \in \{c^1, c^2\}, D \in \{d^1, d^2\}$

Inference task: Compute  $P(D)$



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

- Simple way would be to generate each possible sequence  $(A,B,C,D)$  and sum over them
  - Exponential in the number of variables

# Example of inference on Bayesian Network

- Enumerating all combinations
- Each term has 3 multiplications
- $8+8 = 16$  terms
- Total multiplication ops =  $16 \times 3 = 48$
- 7 additions for  $d^1$  and 7 additions for  $d^2$
- Total additions ops =  $7+7=14$

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 & P(a^1) & P(b^1 | a^1) & P(c^1 | b^1) & P(d^1 | c^1) \\
 + & P(a^2) & P(b^1 | a^2) & P(c^1 | b^1) & P(d^1 | c^1) \\
 + & P(a^1) & P(b^2 | a^1) & P(c^1 | b^2) & P(d^1 | c^1) \\
 + & P(a^2) & P(b^2 | a^2) & P(c^1 | b^2) & P(d^1 | c^1) \\
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 + & P(a^2) & P(b^2 | a^2) & P(c^2 | b^2) & P(d^2 | c^2)
 \end{array}$$

All terms involved in computation of  $P(d^1)$  and  $P(d^2)$  respectively.



# Example of inference on Bayesian Network

Can we reduce the number of computations?

- Many terms are common; they can be computed once and reused

Consider the orange highlighted box,  $P(c^1|b^1)P(d^1|c^1)$  is common.

Compute:  $P(a^1)P(b^1|a^1) + P(a^2)P(b^1|a^2)$

Consider the blue highlighted box,  $P(c^1|b^2)P(d^1|c^1)$  is common.

Compute:  $P(a^1)P(b^2|a^1) + P(a^2)P(b^2|a^2)$

**Define:**  $\tau_1(B) = P(a^1)P(B|a^1) + P(a^2)P(B|a^2)$

where  $B \in \{b^1, b^2\}$

	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^1   a^1)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^1   a^2)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^2   a^1)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^2   a^2)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^1   a^1)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^1   a^2)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^2   a^1)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^2   a^2)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$
	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^1   a^1)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^1   a^2)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^2   a^1)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^2   a^2)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^1   a^1)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^1   a^2)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$
+	$P(a^1)$	$P(b^2   a^1)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$
+	$P(a^2)$	$P(b^2   a^2)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$

All terms involved in computation of  $P(d^1)$  and  $P(d^2)$  respectively.

# Example of inference on Bayesian Network

Consider the orange highlighted box,  $P(d^1|c^1)$  is common.

Compute:  $\tau_1(b^1)P(c^1|b^1) + \tau_1(b^2)P(c^1|b^2)$

	$\tau_1(b^1)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$\tau_1(b^2)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^1)$
+	$\tau_1(b^1)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$
+	$\tau_1(b^2)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^1   c^2)$

Consider the blue highlighted box,  $P(d^1|c^2)$  is common.

Compute:  $\tau_1(b^1)P(c^2|b^1) + \tau_1(b^2)P(c^2|b^2)$

	$\tau_1(b^1)$	$P(c^1   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$\tau_1(b^2)$	$P(c^1   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^1)$
+	$\tau_1(b^1)$	$P(c^2   b^1)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$
+	$\tau_1(b^2)$	$P(c^2   b^2)$	$P(d^2   c^2)$

**Define:**  $\tau_2(C) = \tau_1(b^1)P(C|b^1) + \tau_1(b^2)P(C|b^2)$   
 where  $C \in \{c^1, c^2\}$

All terms involved in computation of  $P(d^1)$  and  $P(d^2)$  respectively. The sum is simplified because of use of  $\tau_1(B)$ .

# Example of inference on Bayesian Network

- Computation shown alongside is easy and gives  $P(D)$
- Previous steps are equivalent to **pushing summation inside**

$$P(D) = \sum_C \sum_B \sum_A P(A)P(B|A)P(C|B)P(D|C)$$

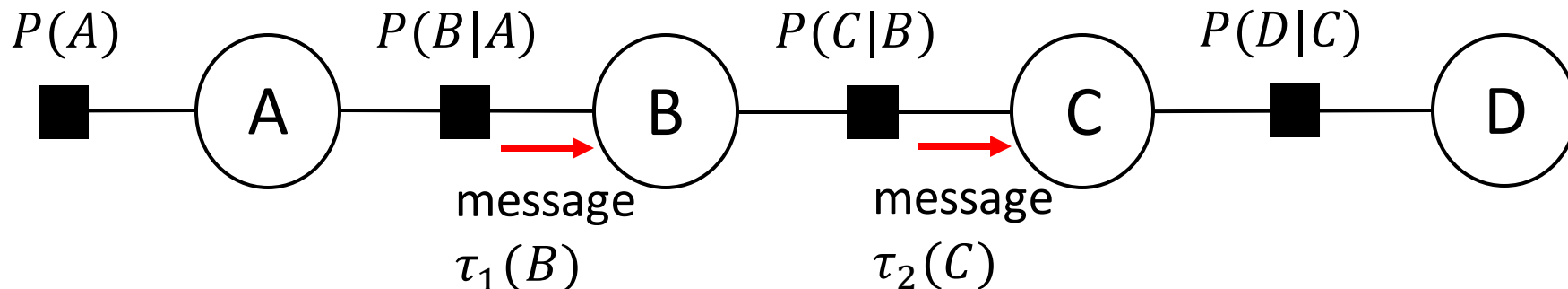
$$P(D) = \sum_C P(D|C) \sum_B P(C|B) \underbrace{\sum_A P(A)P(B|A)}_{\tau_1(B)} \underbrace{P(C|B)}_{\tau_2(C)}$$

$$+ \tau_2(c^1) P(d^1 | c^1) + \tau_2(c^2) P(d^1 | c^2)$$

$$+ \tau_2(c^1) P(d^2 | c^1) + \tau_2(c^2) P(d^2 | c^2)$$

Computation of  $P(D)$  is simplified because of use of  $\tau_1(B)$ ,  $\tau_2(C)$ .

Flow of computations (messages) in Factor Graph corresponding to the given BN



# Sum-product algorithm reduces computations

- Pushing summations inside reduced the number of computations
  - Simple way: 48 multiplications + 14 additions
  - Pushing summations inside: 4x3 multiplications + 2x3 additions
  - Can be up to linear in number of variables (much better than exponential!)
- What helped in addressing the exponential blowup of marginalizing the joint distribution?
  - Graph structure – because of structure of Bayesian Network, some subexpression in the joint depend only on a small number of variables
  - Pushing summation inside – by computing these expressions once and caching the results, we can avoid generating them exponentially many times
- Referred to as **sum-product algorithm** or **Belief Propagation**

# Inference problem on Factor Graphs

What is the problem we are trying to solve?

- Marginalization on Factor Graphs

**Marginal probability**

$$P(X_i) = \sum_{\mathbf{X} \setminus X_i} P(\mathbf{X})$$

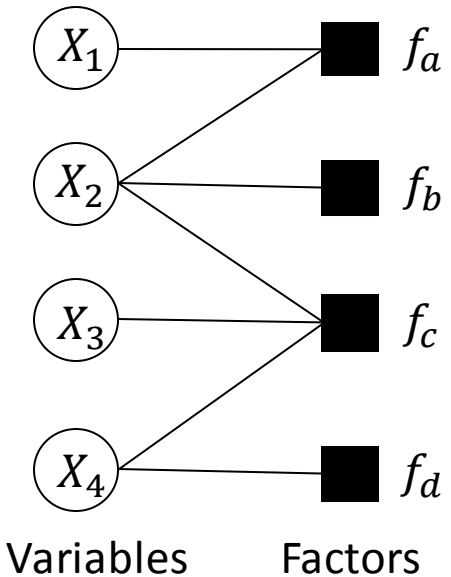
All variables except  $X_i$

Challenge:

- Computationally expensive because the sum is calculated on all variables except one

Approach:

- Factorize the joint distribution according the structure
- Use belief propagation to reduce computations

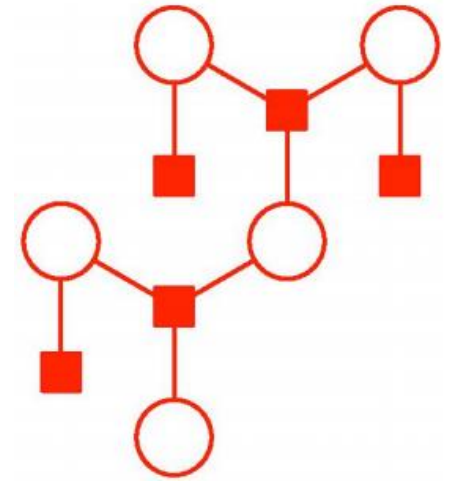


$X_i \in \{0,1\}$  is a discrete variable  
e.g., a Boolean variable

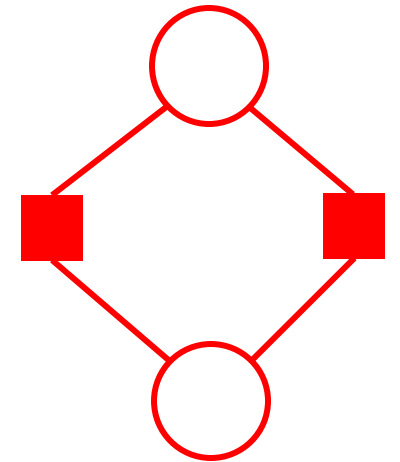
$f_c(X_c)$  is a tensor  
on a set of variables  $X_c$

# Belief propagation

- Also known as sum-product algorithm
- Computes marginal distributions by “pushing in summations”
- Exact inference for linear graphs and trees
- Approximate inference for graphs with loops; performs remarkably well
- In case of Factor Graphs, involves two types of **messages**
  - From factor to variables
  - From variables to factors



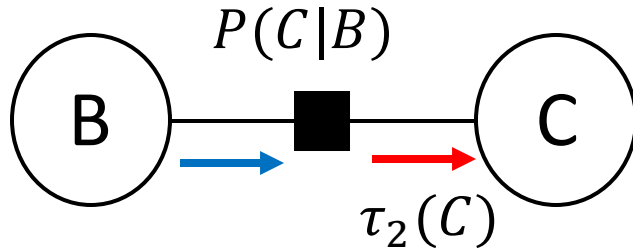
Tree Factor graph



Factor graph with loop

# Belief Propagation – Message from factor to variable

Recall from previous example:



$$\tau_2(C) = \sum_B P(C|B) \tau_1(B)$$

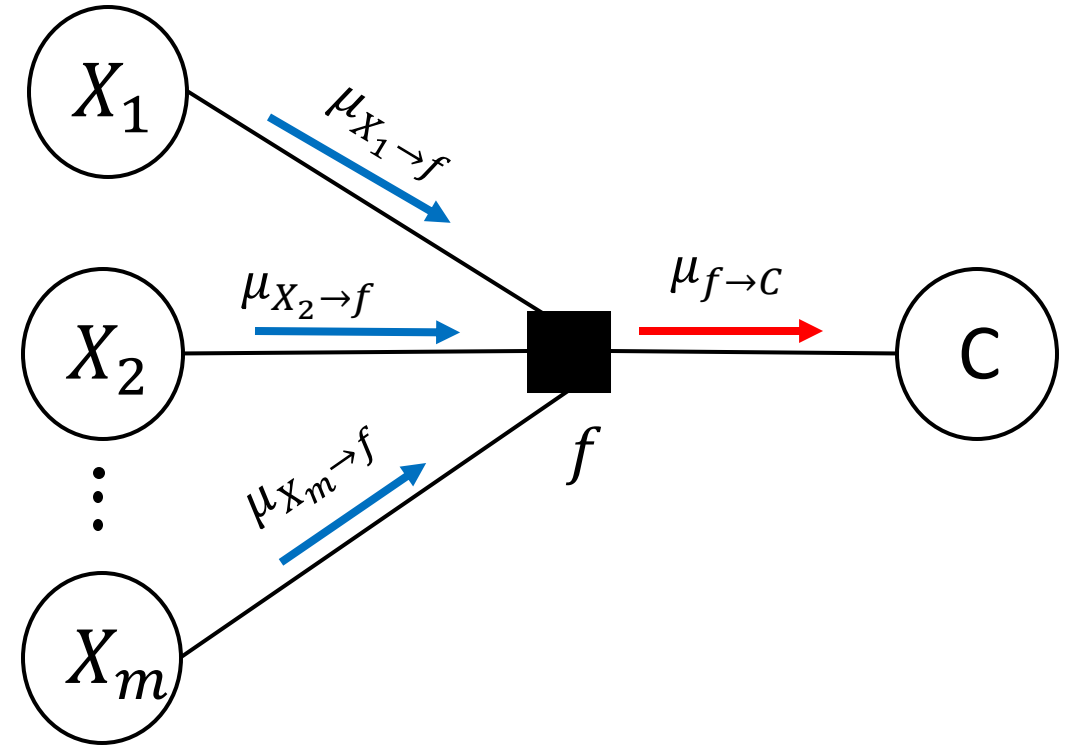
To get the general expression,  
denote by:

$$f(B, C) = P(C|B)$$

$$\mu_{f \rightarrow C}(C) = \tau_2(C)$$

$$\mu_{B \rightarrow f}(B) = \tau_1(B)$$

In general:

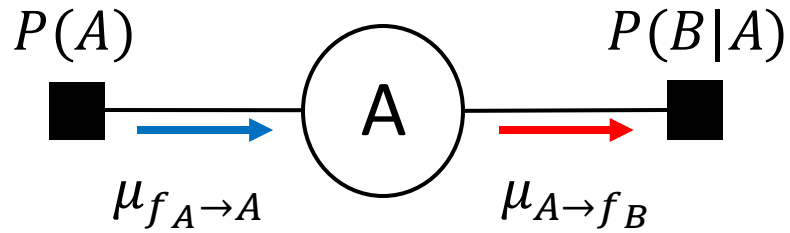


$$\mu_{f \rightarrow C}(C) = \sum_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m} f(C, X_1, \dots, X_m) \prod_{i=1}^m \mu_{X_i \rightarrow f}(X_i)$$

Message from factor to variable: Product of all incoming messages and factor, sum out previous variables

# Belief Propagation – Message variable to factor

Recall from previous example:

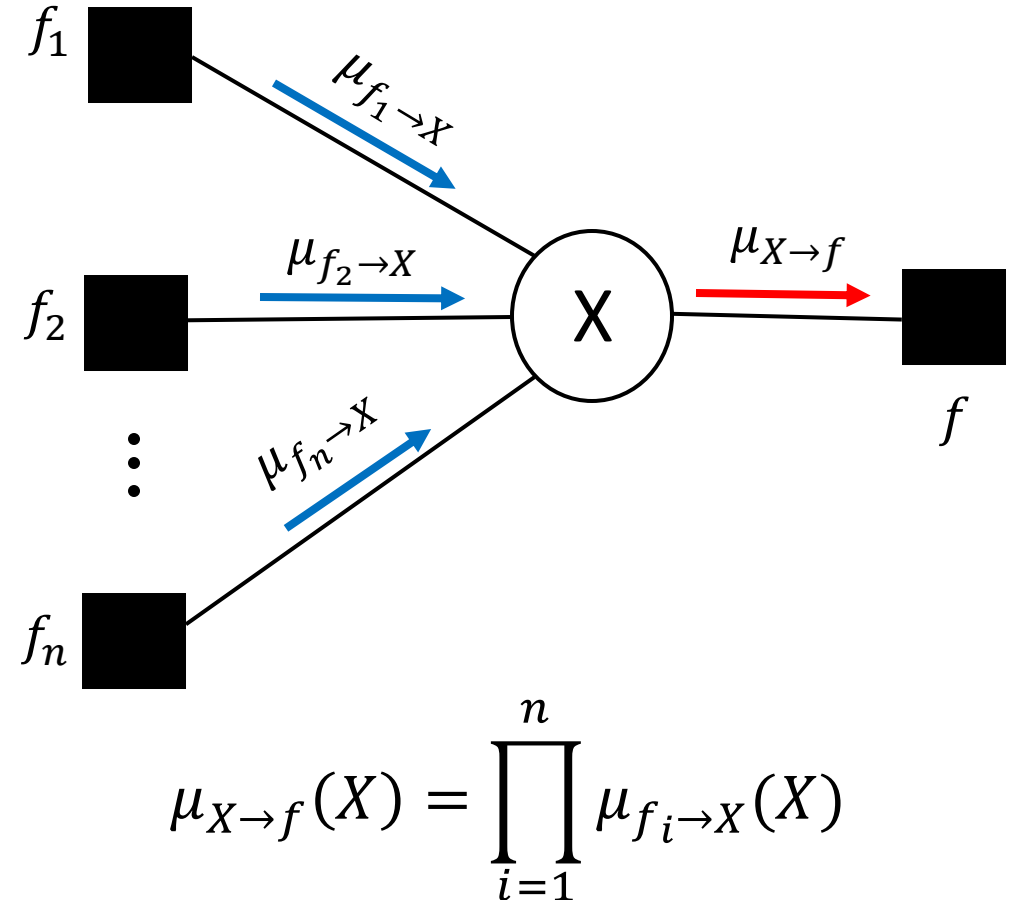


$$\mu_{A \rightarrow f_B}(A) = \mu_{f_A \rightarrow A}(A) = P(A)$$

Where,

$$\begin{aligned} f_A(A) &= P(A) \\ f_B(A, B) &= P(B|A) \end{aligned}$$

In general:



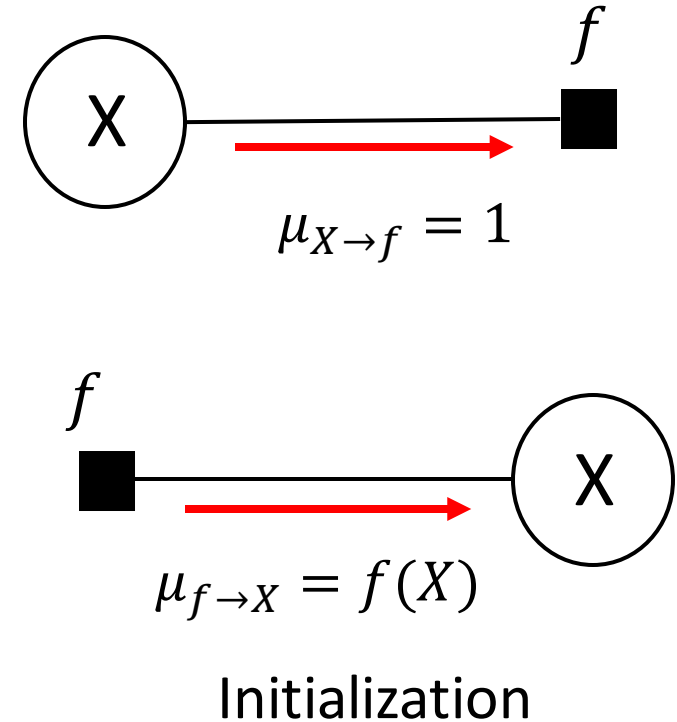
Message from factor to variable: Product of all incoming messages



# Belief Propagation: General Algorithm

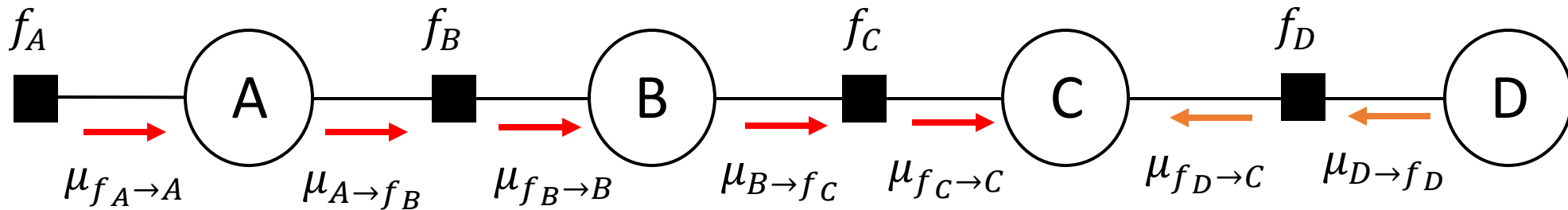
Steps to compute marginal distribution for all variables

- How to start the algorithm
  - Choose a node in the factor graph as root node
  - Compute all the leaf-to-root messages
  - Compute all the root-to-leaf messages
- Initial Conditions
  - Starting from a factor leaf/root node, the initial factor-to-variable message is the factor itself
  - Starting from a variable leaf/root node, the initial variable-to-factor message is a vector of ones
- Computing marginals
  - Marginal is given by the product of all incoming messages; normalize if necessary



# Example of belief propagation

Compute  $P(C)$



$$\mu_{f_A \rightarrow A}(A) = f_A(A) = P(A)$$

$$\mu_{A \rightarrow f_B}(A) = \mu_{f_A \rightarrow A}(A) = P(A)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{f_B \rightarrow B}(B) &= \sum_A f_B(A, B) \mu_{f_A \rightarrow A}(A) \\ &= \sum_A P(B|A) P(A)\end{aligned}$$

$$\mu_{B \rightarrow f_C}(B) = \mu_{f_B \rightarrow B}(B)$$

$$= \sum_A P(B|A) P(A)$$

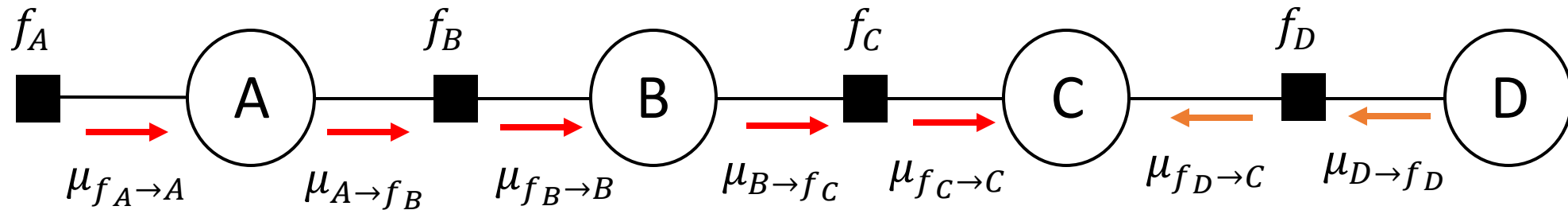
$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{f_C \rightarrow C}(C) &= \sum_B f_C(B, C) \mu_{B \rightarrow f_C}(B) \\ &= \sum_B P(C|B) \sum_A P(B|A) P(A)\end{aligned}$$

$$\mu_{D \rightarrow f_D}(D) = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{f_D \rightarrow C}(C) &= \sum_D f_D(C, D) \mu_{D \rightarrow f_D}(D) \\ &= \sum_D P(D|C)\end{aligned}$$

# Example of belief propagation

Compute  $P(C)$



$$\mu_{f_D \rightarrow C}(C) = \sum_D P(D|C)$$

$$\mu_{f_C \rightarrow C}(C) = \sum_B P(C|B) \sum_A P(B|A)P(A)$$

$$P(C) = \mu_{f_C \rightarrow C}(C) \mu_{f_D \rightarrow C}(C)$$

Verifying that the above computation gives the marginal distribution

$$\begin{aligned} P(C) &= \left( \sum_B P(C|B) \sum_A P(B|A)P(A) \right) \left( \sum_D P(D|C) \right) = \sum_B P(C|B) \sum_A P(B|A)P(A) \sum_D P(D|C) \\ &= \sum_A \sum_B \sum_D P(A)P(B|A)P(C|B)P(D|C) = \sum_{A,B,D} P(A, B, C, D) \end{aligned}$$

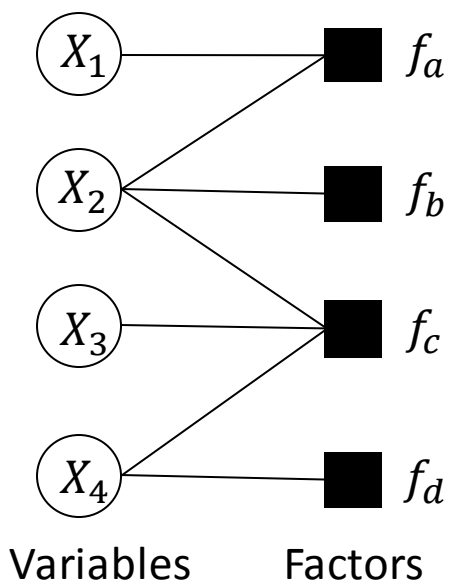
# Marginalization on Factor Graphs

Marginal  
probability

$$P(X_i) = \sum_{\mathbf{X} \setminus X_i} P(\mathbf{X})$$

All variables except  $X_i$

Inference method	Description
Belief Propagation	Exact inference on non-loop FG
Sampling - Markov Chain Monte Carlo, Gibbs	Approximate inference
Variational Inference	Approximate inference



$X_i \in \{0,1\}$  is a discrete variable  
e.g., a Boolean variable

$f_c(X_c)$  is a tensor  
on a set of variables  $X_c$

# References

- Daphne Koller, Nir Friedman's textbook on Graphical Models
- <https://www.psi.toronto.edu/~jimmy/ece521/Tut10.pdf>
- [https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~mpd37/teaching/ml\\_tutorials/2016-11-09-Svensson-BP.pdf](https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~mpd37/teaching/ml_tutorials/2016-11-09-Svensson-BP.pdf)