

Bayesian Belief Networks

AIMA, Chapter 14



Kunstmatige Intelligentie / RuG



Bayesian Networks

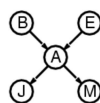
- A simple, graphical notation for conditional independence assertions and hence for compact specification of full joint distributions
- The constituents of a Bayesian network:
 - a set of nodes, one per variable
 - a directed, acyclic graph (link \approx "directly influences")
 - a conditional distribution for each node given its parents
 $P(X_i | \text{Parents}(X_i))$
- In the simplest case, conditional distribution represented as a **conditional probability table** (CPT) giving the distribution over X_i for each combination of parent values

Example

- I'm at work, neighbor John calls to say my alarm is ringing, but neighbor Mary doesn't call. Sometimes it's set off by minor earthquakes. Is there a burglar?
- Variables: *Burglary*, *Earthquake*, *Alarm*, *JohnCalls*, *MaryCalls*
- Network topology reflects "causal" knowledge:
 - A burglar can set the alarm off
 - An earthquake can set the alarm off
 - The alarm can cause Mary to call
 - The alarm can cause John to call

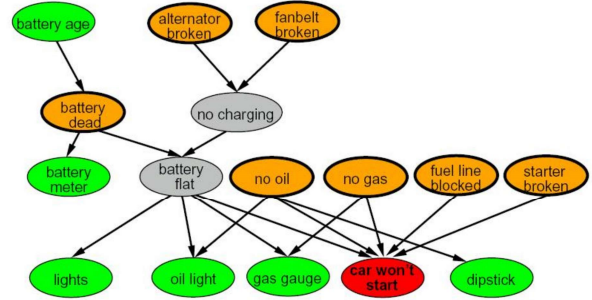
Compactness

- A CPT for Boolean X_i with k Boolean parents has 2^k rows for the combinations of parent values



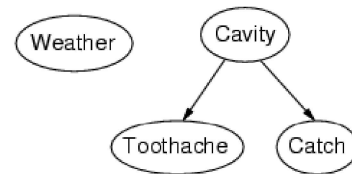
- Each row requires one number p for $X_i = \text{true}$ (the number for $X_i = \text{false}$ is just $1-p$)
- If each variable has no more than k parents, the complete network requires $O(n \cdot 2^k)$ numbers
i.e. grows linearly with n , vs. $O(2^n)$ for the full joint distribution
- For burglary net, $1 + 1 + 4 + 2 + 2 = 10$ numbers (vs. $2^5 - 1 = 31$)

Initial evidence: car won't start
Testable variables (green), "broken, so fix it" variables (orange)
Hidden variables (gray) ensure sparse structure, reduce parameters



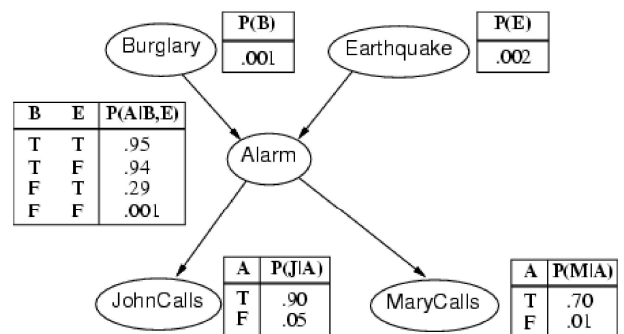
Example

- Topology of network encodes conditional independence assertions:

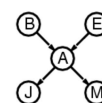


- Weather* is independent of the other variables
- Toothache* and *Catch* are conditionally independent given *Cavity* (e.g.: $p(T|Cav) = p(T|Cav, Catch) = p(T|Cav, \text{not Catch})$)

Example contd.



Computing the Full Joint Distribution



- The full joint distribution is equal to the product of the local conditional distributions:

$$P(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \prod_i P(X_i | \text{Parents}(X_i))$$

e.g. $P(j \wedge m \wedge a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg e)$

$$= P(j | a) P(m | a) P(a | \neg b, \neg e) P(\neg b) P(\neg e)$$

1. Choose an ordering of variables X_1, \dots, X_n
2. For $i = 1$ to n
 - add X_i to the network
 - select parents from X_1, \dots, X_{i-1} such that

$$P(X_i | \text{Parents}(X_i)) = P(X_i | X_1, \dots, X_{i-1})$$

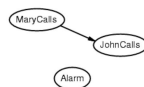
- This choice of parents guarantees:

$$P(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \prod_i P(X_i | X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}) \text{ (chain rule)}$$

$$= \prod_i P(X_i | \text{Parents}(X_i)) \text{ (by construction)}$$

Example

- Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



$P(J | M) = P(J)$? No, John can decide for himself

$P(A | J, M) = P(A | J)$? $P(A | J, M) = P(A)$?

Example

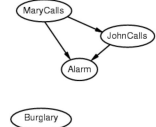
- Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



$$P(J | M) = P(J)?$$

Example

- Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



$P(J | M) = P(J)$? No

$P(A | J, M) = P(A | J)$? $P(A | J, M) = P(A)$? No

$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B | A)$?

$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B)$?

Example

- Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



$P(J | M) = P(J)$? No

$P(A | J, M) = P(A | J)$? $P(A | J, M) = P(A)$? No

$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B | A)$? Yes

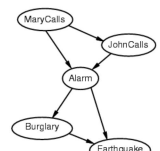
$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B)$? No, the burglar decides himself

$P(E | B, A, J, M) = P(E | A)$?

$P(E | B, A, J, M) = P(E | A, B)$?

Example

- Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



$P(J | M) = P(J)$? No

$P(A | J, M) = P(A | J)$? $P(A | J, M) = P(A)$? No

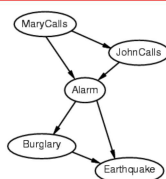
$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B | A)$? Yes

$P(B | A, J, M) = P(B)$? No, the burglar decides himself

$P(E | B, A, J, M) = P(E | A)$? No, earthquakes don't wait for an alarm to go off

$P(E | B, A, J, M) = P(E | A, B)$? Yes → unclear picture

Example contd.

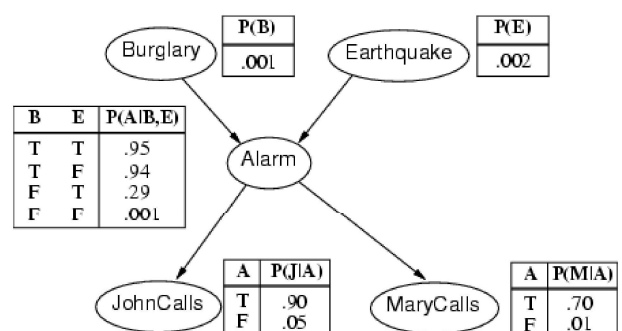


- Deciding conditional independence is difficult in **noncausal** directions.

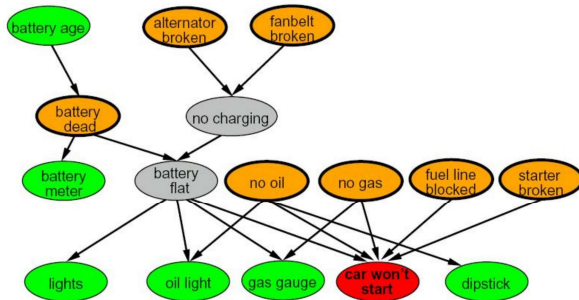
- Causal models and conditional independence seem hardwired in human reasoning!

- Also: the bad network was less compact:
1 + 2 + 4 + 2 + 4 = 13 numbers needed.

Causal ordering is natural, easy



Initial evidence: car won't start
 Testable variables (green), "broken, so fix it" variables (orange)
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Summary

- Bayesian networks provide a natural representation for (causally induced) **conditional independence**.
- Topology + CPTs** = compact representation of joint distribution.
- Generally easy for **domain experts** to construct.
- Belief networks have found increasing use in complex diagnosis problems (medical, cars, PC operating systems).

All is well in Belief Network Land?

- Problems:**
 - Network construction: often gofai human construction labor (knowledge based, 'Cyc' etc.)
 - Estimation of probabilities
 - Product of probabilities:
 - Not p but $p' = p + \epsilon$ therefore

$$\prod_i (p_i + \epsilon) \quad \text{propagation of errors! especially in a long chain}$$

Summary for Bayesian Methods

- Bayesian methods:
 - Learning = estimation of probability distributions of samples from different classes
 - Classification = use these estimates to determine which class is more likely for a new instance
- Naive Bayes:
 - Assumes that attributes are independent.
- Bayesian Belief Networks:
 - Assumes that subsets of attributes are independent.
- Bayesian methods allow combining prior knowledge about the world with evidence from the data stream.