

# Perspectives on Probabilistic Graphical Models

Dong Liu

*Information Science and Engineering  
KTH - Royal Institute of Technology*

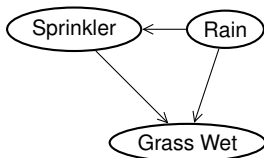


Profile page: <https://firsthandscientist.github.io/>

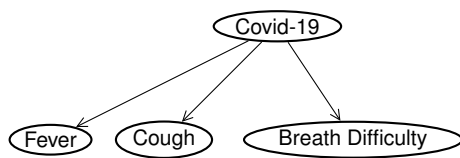
Slide is available at: <https://github.com/FirstHandScientist/phdthesis>

Why are Probabilistic Graphical Models interested?

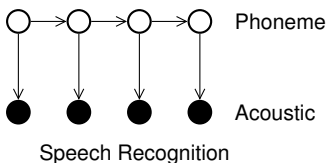
# DIRECTED GRAPH REPRESENTATION



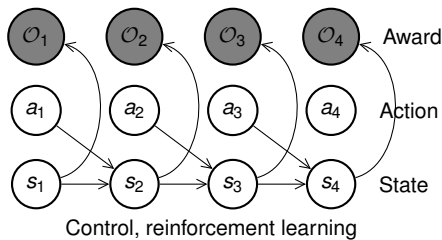
Is the sprinkler working?



Is the person get contagious by COVID?

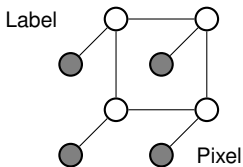


Speech Recognition

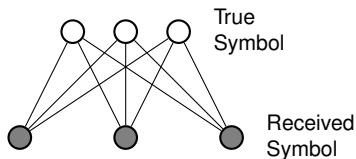
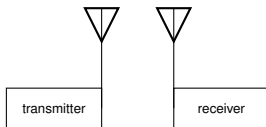


Control, reinforcement learning

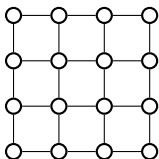
# UNDIRECTED GRAPH REPRESENTATIONS



Vision Perception



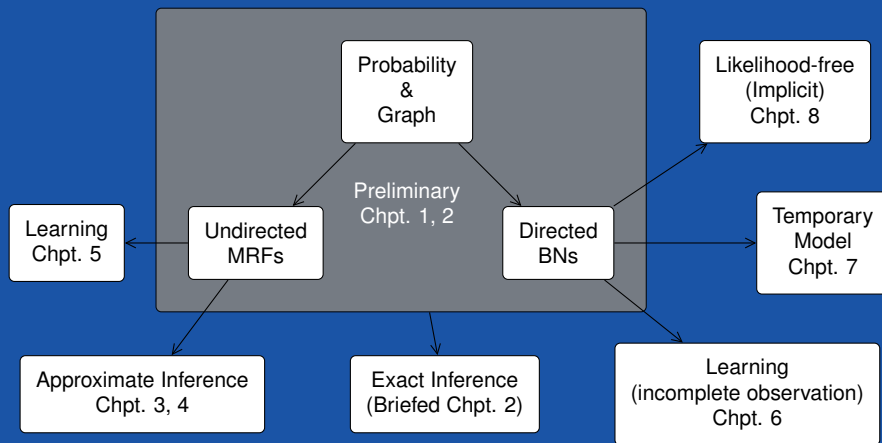
Digital communication



Physics (Ising or Potts model)

- Error-control codes
- Computational biology
- Natural language processing
- etc.

# A GUIDE TO THIS DISSERTATION





# WHAT ARE PROBABILISTIC GRAPHICAL MODELS

Informally...

- attributes of our interests in a system  $\rightarrow$  variable nodes
- relationship of these factors  $\rightarrow$  structures of a graph

Intrinsic property: **reasoning with uncertainty**

A directed/undirected graph encoding dependencies/independencies of distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$ :

- A BN/Generative model is a directed graph
  - $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n | \mathcal{P}(x_n))$
  - $\mathcal{P}(\cdot)$  are parent nodes
  - the local functions are proper distributions
- An MRF denoted by an undirected graph  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ 
  - The probability distribution (Gibbs distribution) is  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \prod_{a \in \mathcal{I}} \psi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)$
  - $a$  indexes potential functions  $\mathcal{I} = \{\psi_A, \psi_B, \dots, \psi_M\}$
  - $Z(\theta) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_a \psi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)$ .



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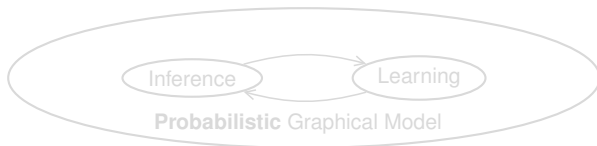
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# USAGE OF GRAPHICAL MODELS

- The common inference problems:
  - Computing the likelihood of observed data.
  - Computing the marginals distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}_A)$  over particular subset  $A \subset \mathcal{V}$  of nodes
  - Computing the conditional distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}_A | \mathbf{x}_B)$ ,
  - Computing the partition function or the Helmholtz free energy (for MRFs)
- Learning:
  - To model or determine  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$ .

Two key components interacting with each other:

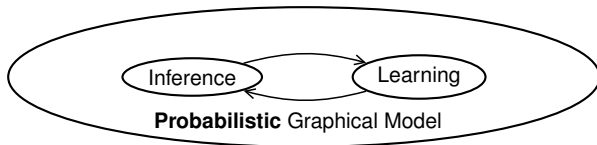




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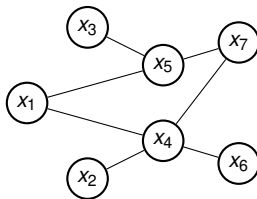
# WHAT IS THE STATE OF $x$ ?

## A TOY EXAMPLE

Assume that we are interested into the state of node  $i$  in an MRF, it can be answered by

- the probability  $p(x_i)$ , or
- an empirical version, a collection of samples  $\{x_i^n\}_{n=1}^N$

It is similar for the case when  $\mathbf{x}$  is of interests, instead of  $x_i$ .



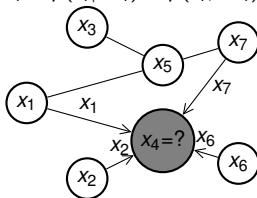
what is the state of  $x_4$

# WHAT IS THE STATE OF $x$ ?

Gibbs sampling: let us guess by sampling

Sample iteratively:

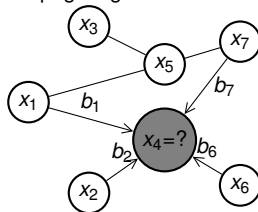
$$x_i \sim p(x_i | \mathbf{x}_{-i}) \sim p(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{-i})$$



Queries by collected samples  $\{\mathbf{x}^n\}_1^N$ .

Mean Field and BP: *message in form of sample values*  $\rightarrow$  *message in form of belief*

Propagating beliefs iteratively



Queries by collected samples  $\{b_i\}$ .

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Intuition from *Gibbs (variational) free energy*

$$F_V(b) = \text{KL}(b(\mathbf{x}) || p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)) - \log Z(\theta)$$

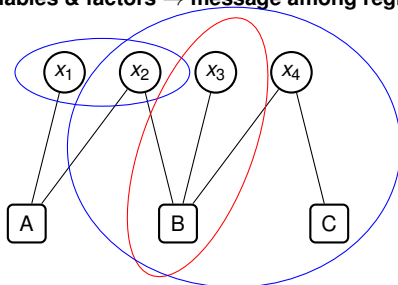
with trial  $b(\mathbf{x})$ . Instance: Bethe free energy.

Attempts with neural networks: an imitation game of message passing, or trials under free energy?

# WHAT IS THE STATE OF $x$ ?

YEDIDIA, FREEMAN, WEISS: A STEP TO GENERALIZATION

**Message among variables & factors** → **message among regions**



Generalized belief propagation (GBP) generalizes loopy BP

- usual better approximation than LBP
- higher complexity
- sensitive to scheduling of region messages

Corresponding to minimization of approximated **variational free energy**  $F_v(b)$  with **trial  $b$  including  $\{b_R\}$** .

A *region*  $R$  is a set  $V_R$  of variables nodes and a set  $A_R$  of factor nodes, such that if a factor node ' $a$ ' belongs to  $A_R$ , all the variables nodes neighboring  $a$  are in  $V_R$ .

# RENN

## REGION REVISITED

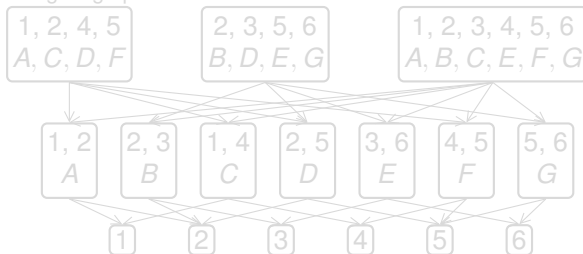
- If you cannot collect true targets ( $p(x_i)$ )
- If you are unwilling to be restricted to pre-defined inference

Factor graph representation of MRF (2-by-3 grid) with factor nodes.

MRF  $\rightarrow$  region graph:



An alternative region graph of the same MRF:



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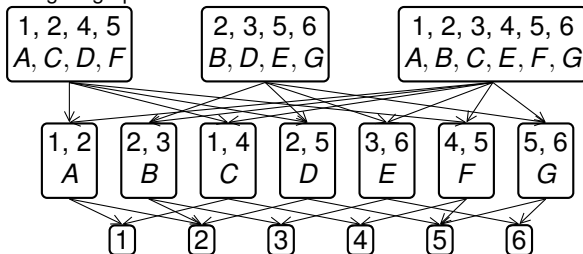
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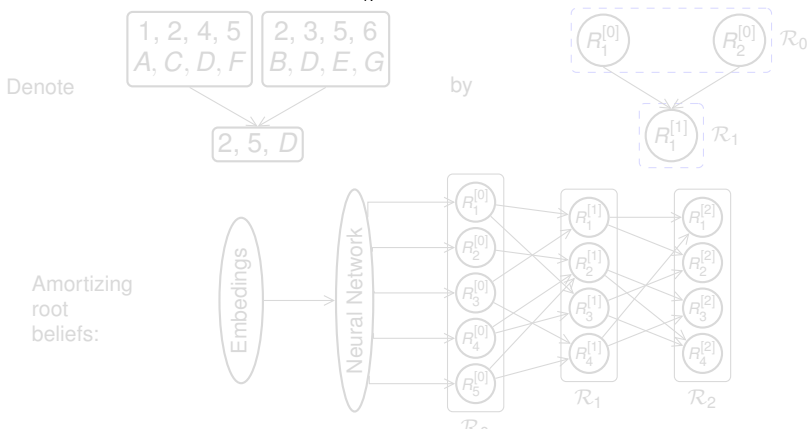


# RENN

The region-based free energy of a region graph is

$$F_R(\mathcal{B}; \theta) = \sum_{R \in \mathcal{R}} \underbrace{c_R}_{\text{counting number}} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_R} b_R(\mathbf{x}_R) \left( \underbrace{E_R(\mathbf{x}_R; \theta_R)}_{\text{region average energy}} + \ln b_R(\mathbf{x}_R) \right),$$

- counting number: balance the contribution of each region
- region average energy:  $-\sum_{a \in A_R} \ln \varphi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)$



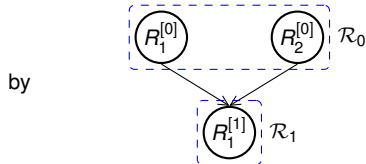
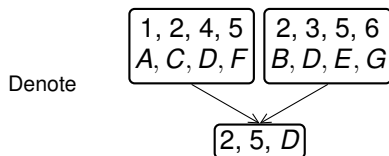


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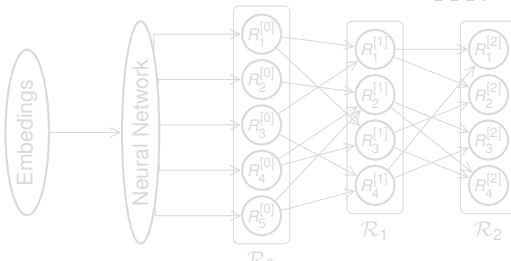
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Amortizing  
root  
beliefs:

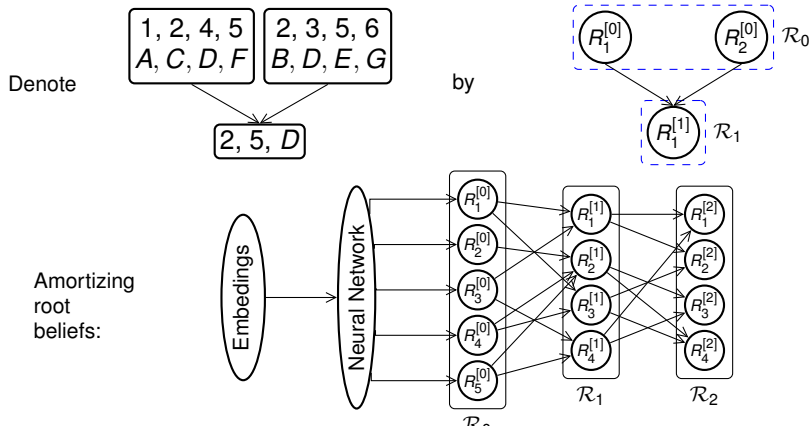


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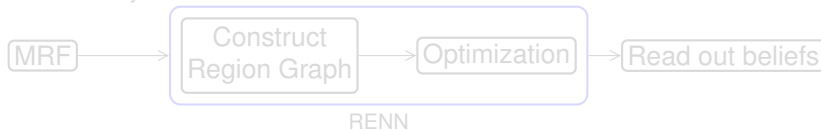


# RENN

Objective of RENN<sup>1</sup>:

$$\min \text{region-based free energy}(F_R) + \underbrace{\text{penalty on belief consistency}}_{\text{along region graph structure}}$$

Inference only



Learning alternatives of MRFs

learn with customized optm.

$$\frac{\partial \log p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)}{\partial \theta_a} = \frac{\partial \log \varphi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)}{\partial \theta_a} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta)} \left[ \frac{\partial \log \varphi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)}{\partial \theta_a} \right]}_{\text{est. beliefs}}$$

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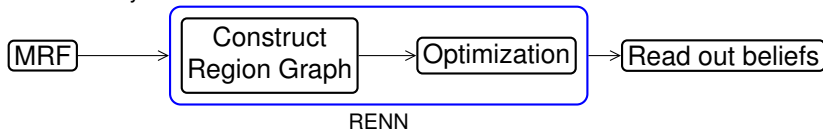
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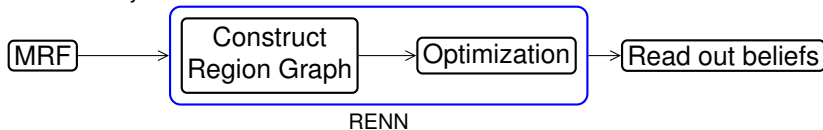
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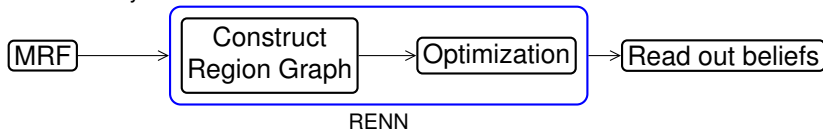
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# INFERENCE RESULTS

Ising model:  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \exp(\sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_F} J_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} h_i x_i)$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \{-1, 1\}^N$ ,

- $J_{ij}$  is the pairwise log-potential between node  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $J_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- $h_i$  is the node log-potential for node  $i$ ,  $h_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \gamma^2)$

Inference on grid graph ( $\gamma = 0.1$ ).

Metric	$n$	Mean Field	Loopy BP	Damped BP	GBP	Inference Net	RENN
$\ell_1$ error	25	0.271 $\pm$ 0.051	0.086 $\pm$ 0.078	0.084 $\pm$ 0.076	0.057 $\pm$ 0.024	0.111 $\pm$ 0.072	<b>0.049</b> $\pm$ 0.078
	100	0.283 $\pm$ 0.024	0.085 $\pm$ 0.041	0.062 $\pm$ 0.024	0.064 $\pm$ 0.019	0.074 $\pm$ 0.034	<b>0.025</b> $\pm$ 0.011
	225	0.284 $\pm$ 0.019	0.100 $\pm$ 0.025	0.076 $\pm$ 0.025	0.073 $\pm$ 0.013	0.073 $\pm$ 0.012	<b>0.046</b> $\pm$ 0.011
	400	0.279 $\pm$ 0.014	0.110 $\pm$ 0.016	0.090 $\pm$ 0.016	0.079 $\pm$ 0.009	0.083 $\pm$ 0.009	<b>0.061</b> $\pm$ 0.009
Correlation $\rho$	25	0.633 $\pm$ 0.197	0.903 $\pm$ 0.114	0.905 $\pm$ 0.113	0.923 $\pm$ 0.045	0.866 $\pm$ 0.117	<b>0.951</b> $\pm$ 0.112
	100	0.582 $\pm$ 0.112	0.827 $\pm$ 0.134	0.902 $\pm$ 0.059	0.899 $\pm$ 0.043	0.903 $\pm$ 0.049	<b>0.983</b> $\pm$ 0.012
	225	0.580 $\pm$ 0.080	0.801 $\pm$ 0.078	0.863 $\pm$ 0.088	0.869 $\pm$ 0.037	0.873 $\pm$ 0.037	<b>0.949</b> $\pm$ 0.022
	400	0.596 $\pm$ 0.054	0.779 $\pm$ 0.059	0.822 $\pm$ 0.047	0.852 $\pm$ 0.024	0.841 $\pm$ 0.028	<b>0.912</b> $\pm$ 0.025
log Z error	25	2.512 $\pm$ 1.060	0.549 $\pm$ 0.373	0.557 $\pm$ 0.369	<b>0.169</b> $\pm$ 0.142	0.762 $\pm$ 0.439	0.240 $\pm$ 0.140
	100	13.09 $\pm$ 2.156	1.650 $\pm$ 1.414	1.457 $\pm$ 1.365	<b>0.524</b> $\pm$ 0.313	2.836 $\pm$ 2.158	1.899 $\pm$ 0.495
	225	29.93 $\pm$ 4.679	3.348 $\pm$ 1.954	3.423 $\pm$ 2.157	<b>1.008</b> $\pm$ 0.653	3.249 $\pm$ 2.058	4.344 $\pm$ 0.813
	400	51.81 $\pm$ 4.706	5.738 $\pm$ 2.107	5.873 $\pm$ 2.211	<b>1.750</b> $\pm$ 0.869	3.953 $\pm$ 2.558	7.598 $\pm$ 1.146

- $\ell_1$  error of beliefs v.s. true
- correlation  $\rho$  between true and approximate marginals,
- log Z error, true v.s. free energy approximation.

# LEARNING MRFs

What is  $\theta$  in  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$ ?

Table of negative log-likelihood of learned MRFs

$n$	True	Exact	Mean Field	Loopy BP	Damped BP	GBP	Inference Net	RENN
Grid Graph								
25	9.000	9.004	9.811	9.139	9.196	10.56	9.252	<b>9.048</b>
100	19.34	19.38	23.48	19.92	20.02	28.61	20.29	<b>19.76</b>
225	63.90	63.97	69.01	66.44	66.25	92.62	68.15	<b>64.79</b>
Complete Graph								
9	3.276	3.286	9.558	5.201	5.880	10.06	5.262	<b>3.414</b>
16	4.883	4.934	28.74	13.64	18.95	24.45	13.77	<b>5.178</b>



# INFERENCE ROUTINE IN LEARNING

What is  $\theta$  in  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \prod_a \psi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)$ ?

A direct view:

$$\max_{\theta} \log p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \max_{\theta} \sum_a \log \psi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a) - \underbrace{\log Z(\theta)}_{\text{Helmholtz free energy}},$$

An alternative view:

$$\frac{\partial \log p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)}{\partial \theta_a} = \frac{\partial \log \varphi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)}{\partial \theta_a} - \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta)} \left[ \frac{\partial \log \varphi_a(\mathbf{x}_a; \theta_a)}{\partial \theta_a} \right].$$

Remark:

- This essentially requires estimation of Helmholtz free energy or marginal probabilities.
- Stationary points translate into moment matching.

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# SUMMARY

- Brief on probabilistic graphic models
- Overview of inference methods
- A focus on the message-passing
- Transition to inference methods with NN

Thank you for your attention.  
Q&A.