Introduction to Probabilistic Machine Learning

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Graphical Models: Independence

Overview

1. Graphical Models
2. Bayesian Networks
3. Conditional Independence

Overview

1. **Graphical Models**
2. Bayesian Networks
3. Conditional Independence

- **Challenge**: How to formulate complex likelihoods/data models & priors for *actual* data?
  - **Example 1**: Match outcomes $y \in \{-1,1\}$ (data) for a head-to-head match between two players
    - **Prior**: $p(\mathbf{s}) = \mathcal{N}(s_1; \mu_1, \sigma_1^2) \cdot \mathcal{N}(s_2; \mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$ skill belief
    - **Likelihood**: $p(y|\mathbf{s}) = \int \mathcal{N}(p_1; s_1, \beta^2) \cdot \mathcal{N}(p_2; s_2, \beta^2) \cdot \mathbb{I}(y(p_1 - p_2) > 0) \; dp_1 \, dp_2$ marginalization

Match outcome

Player performance

  - **Example 2**: Time series $\mathbf{y}$ of temperatures
    - **Prior**: $p(w) = \mathcal{N}(w; \mu, \sigma^2)$ External state mapping parameter belief
    - **Likelihood**: $p(\mathbf{y}|w, X) = \int \mathcal{N}(z_1;\, w \cdot x_1, \tau^2) \cdot \mathcal{N}(y_1; z_1, \beta^2) \cdot \mathcal{N}(z_2; z_1 + w \cdot x_2, \tau^2) \cdots \, d\mathbf{z}$ marginalization

Dynamics model

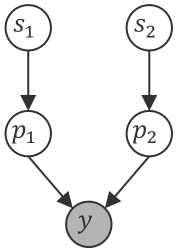
Observed temperature model

Conditional hidden state model

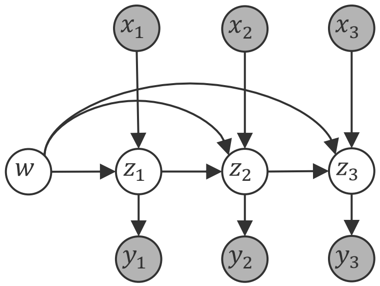
Graphical Models

- **Observation**: The product structure of the probabilities seems crucial
- **Idea**: Define a graph where each of the variables are nodes and edges indicate factor relationships between variables

$$\mathcal{N}(s_1;\mu_1,\sigma_1^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(s_2;\mu_2,\sigma_2^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(p_1;s_1,\beta^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(p_2;s_2,\beta^2)\cdot\mathbb{I}(y(p_1-p_2)>0)$$



$$\mathcal{N}(w;\mu,\sigma^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(z_1;\ w\cdot x_1,\tau^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(y_1;z_1,\beta^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(z_2;z_1+w\cdot x_2,\tau^2)\cdot\mathcal{N}(y_2;z_2,\beta^2)\cdots$$



- **Advantages**: Simple way to visualize factor structure of the joint probability
  - **Bayesian Networks**: Insights into (conditional) independence based on graph properties
  - **Factor Graphs**: Insights into efficient inference and approximation algorithms

Overview

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2. **Bayesian Networks**
3. Conditional Independence

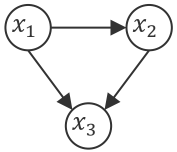
Bayesian Networks

- **Observation**. Any joint distribution $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ can be written as

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(x_i | x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

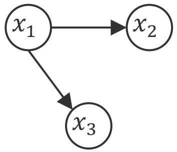
- **Bayesian Network**. *Given a joint distribution as a product of conditional distributions,* $p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(x_i | \mathrm{parents}_i)$*, a* Bayesian network *is a graph with a node for every variable* x_i*, and a directed edge from every variable* $x \in \mathrm{parent}_i$ to x_i*. If the variable is independent of all other variables, it has no incoming edges.*

- **Examples**: For 3 variables, we have these four generic Bayesian networks



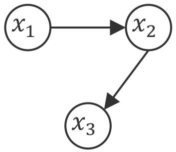
$p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1, x_2)$

full mesh



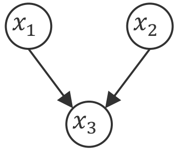
$p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{3} p(x_i|x_1)$

star



$p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{3} p(x_i|x_{i-1})$

chain



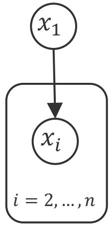
$p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_3|x_1, x_2) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{2} p(x_i)$

sink

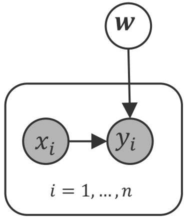
Bayesian Network Models

- **Plate.** If a subset of variables has the same relation only differing in their index, we use a ”plate” to collapse them into a single graphical element.
  - Increase readability of models for large amounts of parameters and data
- A Bayesian network must always be a **directed acyclic graph** because only those have a topological order corresponding to a variable order.
- **Observed Variables.** If a subset of variables has been observed (“data”), the variable nodes are usually shaded (“clamped”).
  - **Example**: Discriminatory Models

$$p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = p(x_1) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^{n} p(x_i | x_1)$$



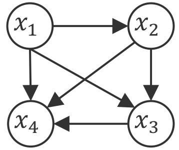
$$p\big(\boldsymbol{w}, (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\big) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(y_i | x_i, \boldsymbol{w}) \cdot p(\boldsymbol{w})$$



$$p\big(\boldsymbol{w} | (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\big) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(y_i | x_i, \boldsymbol{w}) \cdot p(\boldsymbol{w})$$

Representation Complexity

- For simplicity, let us assume that $x_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$



Naive

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	$p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$
1	1	1	1	p_{1111}
1	1	1	2	p_{1112}
		⋮		
1	1	1	K	p_{111K}
1	1	2	1	p_{1121}
		⋮		
K	K	K	K	$1 - \sum$

$K^4 - 1$

Bayesian Network

$$p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1, x_2) \cdot p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

x_1	$p(x_1)$
1	p_1
2	p_2
⋮	
K	$1 - \sum$

$K - 1$

x_2	x_1	$p(x_2|x_1)$
1	1	p_{11}
2	1	p_{21}
	⋮	
K	1	$1 - \sum$
1	2	p_{12}
	⋮	
K	K	$1 - \sum$

$(K - 1) \cdot K$

x_3	x_1	x_2	$p(x_3|x_1, x_2)$
1	1	1	p_{111}
2	1	1	p_{211}
	⋮		
K	1	1	$1 - \sum$
1	1	2	p_{112}
	⋮		
K	K	K	$1 - \sum$

$(K - 1) \cdot K^2$

x_4	x_1	x_2	x_3	$p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)$
1	1	1	1	p_{1111}
2	1	1	1	p_{2111}
		⋮		
K	1	1	1	$1 - \sum$
1	1	1	2	p_{1112}
		⋮		
K	K	K	K	$1 - \sum$

$(K - 1) \cdot K^3$

$$(K-1) \cdot (1 + K + K^2 + K^3) = (K + K^2 + K^3 + K^4) - (1 + K + K^2 + K^3)$$
$$= K^4 - 1$$

Overview

1. Graphical Models
2. Bayesian Networks
3. **Conditional Independence**

Conditional Independence

- In modelling specific data, domain experts often know whether or not two (latent) measurements can affect each other or not (i.e., are independent)
  - **Examples**:
    - Skills of two players in a video game are not dependent if they never played before
    - Skills of two players in a video game *are* dependent if they have played many times!

- Bayesian networks are useful to determine conditional independence.
- **Conditional Independence**. *A random variable* x_i *is conditionally independent of a random variable* x_j *given the variable* x_k *if for all values* a *of* x_k

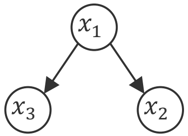
$$p\left(x_i | x_j, x_k = a\right) = p(x_i | x_k = a)$$

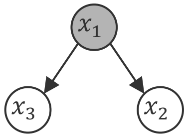
  - Equivalent definition: $p\left(x_i, x_j | x_k = a\right) = p(x_i | x_k = a) \cdot p\left(x_j | x_k = a\right)$
  - Shorthand notation (Dawid, 1979): $x_i \perp x_j | x_k$

Philip Dawid
(1946–)

Conditional Independence: Warm-Up I

- **Tail-to-Tail Node (x_1):** $p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1)$





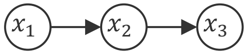
$$p(x_2, x_3) = \sum_{x_1} p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1) \neq p(x_2) \cdot p(x_3)$$

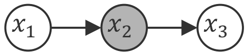
not (always) conditionally independent

$$p(x_2, x_3|x_1) = \frac{p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1)}{p(x_1)} = p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1)$$

conditionally independent

- **Head-to-Tail Node (x_2):** $p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_2)$





$$p(x_1, x_3) = p(x_1) \cdot \sum_{x_2} p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_2) = p(x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1) \neq p(x_1) \cdot p(x_3)$$

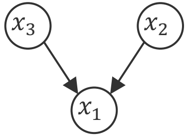
not (always) conditionally independent

$$p(x_1, x_3|x_2) = \frac{p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_1)}{p(x_2)} \cdot p(x_3|x_2) = p(x_1|x_2) \cdot p(x_3|x_2)$$

conditionally independent

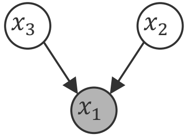
Conditional Independence: Warm-Up II

- **Head-to-Head Node (x_1):** $p(x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_2) \cdot p(x_3) \cdot p(x_1|x_2, x_3)$



$$p(x_2, x_3) = \sum_{x_1} p(x_1|x_2, x_3) \cdot p(x_2) \cdot p(x_3) = p(x_2) \cdot p(x_3)$$

(conditionally) independent

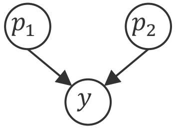


$$p(x_2, x_3|x_1) = \frac{p(x_1|x_2, x_3) \cdot p(x_2) \cdot p(x_3)}{p(x_1)} \neq p(x_2|x_1) \cdot p(x_3|x_1)$$

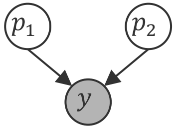
not (always) conditionally independent

  - It can be shown that the path between x_2 and x_3 are only independent if *none* of the *descendant* node from x_1 (that can be reached in the directed graph) is observed!

- **Skill Example (ctd)**: Consider the performance of two players



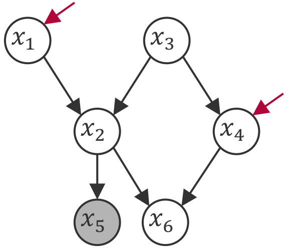
Before match: p_1 and p_2 are independent



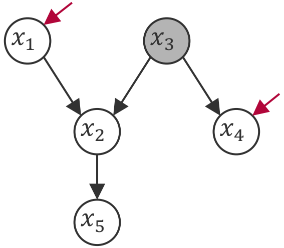
After match: p_1 and p_2 are **not** independent

Conditional Independence: d-separation

- **Blocked Node**. *A node in a Bayesian network is said to be blocked if*
  1. *It’s a head-to-tail or tail-to-tail node and the node is observed.*
  2. *It’s a head-to-head node and neither the node nor any of its descendants are observed.*
- **d-separation**. *Given a Bayesian network and a subset of observed variables, two non-observed variables x_i and x_j are* conditionally independent *(that is, d-separated) if every undirected path between x_i and x_j contains at least one blocked node.*
- **Examples**.



x_1 and x_4 are not independent



x_1 and x_4 are independent

Judea Pearl (1936–)

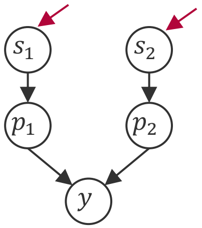
Introduction to Probabilistic Machine Learning

Unit 3 – Graphical Models: Independence

Conditional Independence: Skill Example

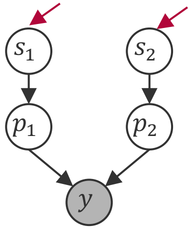
- **Skill Example (ctd)**: Consider the skills of two players

Before match



s_1 and s_2 are independent

After match



s_1 and s_2 are **not** independent

- Intuitive because
  - Before the match there is no information that "links" the skill of two players
  - After the match, if the skill of the winning player goes down (e.g., due to a loss in a subsequent match) then the skill of the opponent also needs to go down (or otherwise the observed match outcome would not have been possible)

Summary

1. **Graphical Models**
   - Simple way to visualize the product structure of a joint probability distribution
   - Useful for modelling real-life data generating processes
   - Allows both to test for conditional independence and efficient marginalization (next week)
2. **Bayesian Networks**
   - A directed acyclic graph where each edge points from a conditioning to a conditioned variable in the model
   - An alternative representation (parameterization) of a joint probability (often easier to formulate for experts)
   - A generative model of the data
3. **Conditional Independence**
   - d-separation is a set of simple rules ("blocking") to read off conditional independence
   - d-separation reduces conditional independence (exponentially hard complexity) to graph properties (polynomial complexity in sparse graphs)

See you next week!