Chapter 11 Uncertainty & Reasoning under the uncertainty

Instructor

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- Prof. Tom Lenaerts, from Université Libre de Bruxelles

Outline

- Uncertainty
- Probability
- Syntax and Semantics
- Inference
- ❖ Independence and Bayes' Rule
- Bayesian Networks

Uncertainty

Let action A_t = leave for airport **t minutes** before flight Will A_t get me there on time?

Problems:

- 1. partial observability (road state, other drivers' plans, etc.)
- 2. noisy sensors (traffic reports)
- 3. uncertainty in action outcomes (flat tire, etc.)
- 4. immense complexity of modeling and predicting traffic

Hence a purely logical approach either

- 1. risks falsehood: " A_{25} will get me there on time", or
- 2. leads to conclusions that are too weak for decision making:

" A_{25} will get me there on time **IF** there's no accident on the bridge and it doesn't rain and my tires remain intact etc etc."

 $(A_{1440}$ might reasonably be said to get me there on time **BUT** I'd have to stay overnight in the airport ...)

Methods for handling uncertainty

- Default or nonmonotonic logic:
 - Assume my car does not have a flat tire
 - \nearrow Assume A_{25} works unless contradicted by evidence
- ❖ Issues: What assumptions are reasonable? How to handle contradiction?
- * Rules with fuzzy factors:
 - $A_{25} / \rightarrow_{0.3}$ get there on time
 - \simeq Sprinkler \rightarrow 0.99 WetGrass
 - \cong WetGrass \rightarrow 0.7 Rain
- ❖ Issues: Problems with combination, e.g., *Sprinkler* causes *Rain*??
- Probability
 - Model agent's degree of belief
 - Given the available evidence,
 - $> A_{25}$ will get me there on time with probability 0.04

Probability

Probabilistic assertions summarize effects of

- laziness: failure to enumerate exceptions, qualifications, etc.
- ignorance: lack of relevant facts, initial conditions, etc.

Subjective probability:

Probabilities relate propositions to agent's own state of knowledge e.g., $P(A_{25} | \text{no reported accidents}) = 0.06$

These are not assertions about the world

Probabilities of propositions change with new evidence:

e.g., $P(A_{25} | \text{no reported accidents}, 5 \text{ a.m.}) = 0.15$

Making decisions under uncertainty

Suppose I believe the following:

```
P(A_{25} \text{ gets me there on time } | ...) = 0.04

P(A_{90} \text{ gets me there on time } | ...) = 0.70

P(A_{120} \text{ gets me there on time } | ...) = 0.95

P(A_{1440} \text{ gets me there on time } | ...) = 0.9999
```

\Delta Which action to choose?

Depends on my preferences for missing flight vs. time spent waiting, etc.

- ► Utility theory is used to represent and infer preferences
- ➣ Decision theory = probability theory + utility theory

Syntax

- * Basic element: random variable
 - Similar to propositional logic: possible worlds defined by assignment of values to random variables.
 - Boolean random variables e.g., Cavity (do I have a cavity?)
 - Discrete random variables e.g., Weather is one of < sunny, rainy, cloudy, snow>
- ❖ Domain values:
 - must be exhaustive and mutually exclusive

Syntax

- **Elementary proposition:**
 - constructed by assignment of a value to a random variable:
 - \ge e.g., Weather = sunny, Cavity = false (abbreviated as $\neg cavity$)
- Complex propositions:
 - standard logical connectives
 - ≥ e.g., Weather = sunny ∨ Cavity = false

Syntax

Atomic event:

A complete specification of the state of the world about which the agent is uncertain

E.g., if the world consists of only two Boolean variables *Cavity* and *Toothache*, then there are 4 distinct atomic events:

```
(Cavity = false) ∧ (Toothache = false)
Cavity = false ∧ Toothache = true
Cavity = true ∧ Toothache = false
Cavity = true ∧ Toothache = true
```

Atomic events are **mutually exclusive and exhaustive**

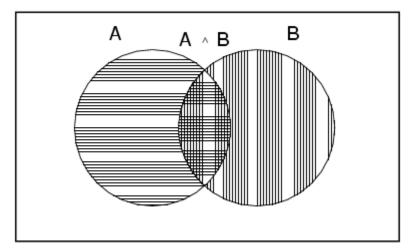
Axioms of probability

 \clubsuit For any propositions A, B

$$\ge 0 \le P(A) \le 1$$

$$P(true) = 1$$
 and $P(false) = 0$

True



Prior probability

- Prior or unconditional probabilities of propositions e.g., P(Cavity = true) = 0.1 and P(Weather = sunny) = 0.72 correspond to belief **prior** to arrival of any (new) evidence
- Probability distribution gives values for all possible assignments:

Weather's domain: < sunny, rainy, cloudy, snow>

```
P(Weather) = <0.72, 0.1, 0.08, 0.1> (normalized, i.e., sums to 1)
```

Prior probability

❖ Joint probability distribution for a set of random variables gives the probability of every atomic event on those random variables
P(Weather, Cavity) = a 4 × 2 matrix of values:

Weather =	sunny	rainy	cloudy	snow
Cavity = true	0.144	0.02	0.016	0.02
Cavity = false	0.576	0.08	0.064	0.08

Every question about a domain can be answered by the joint distribution

Conditional probability

- Conditional or posterior probabilities
 e.g., P(cavity | toothache) = 0.8
 i.e., given that toothache is all I know
- ❖ (Notation for conditional distributions:
 P(*Cavity* | *Toothache*) = 2-element vector of 2-element vectors)
- ❖ If we know more, e.g., *cavity* is also given, then we have P(*cavity* / *toothache*, *cavity*) = 1
- New evidence may be irrelevant, allowing simplification, e.g., $P(cavity \mid toothache, sunny) = P(cavity \mid toothache) = 0.8$
- * This kind of inference, sanctioned by domain knowledge, is crucial

Conditional probability

Definition of conditional probability:

$$P(a \mid b) = \frac{p(a \land b)}{p(b)}$$

Product rule gives an alternative formulation:

$$P(a \land b) = P(a,b)$$

$$= P(a) \times P(b \mid a)$$

$$= P(b) \times P(a \mid b)$$

Conditional probability

❖ A general version holds for whole distributions, e.g.,
 P(Weather, Cavity) = P(Weather / Cavity) P(Cavity)

(View as a set of 4×2 equations, not matrix mult.)

Chain rule is derived by successive application of product rule:

$$\begin{split} P(X_1,...,X_n) &= P(X_1,...,X_{n-1}) \times P(X_n \mid X_1,...,X_{n-1}) \\ &= P(X_1,...,X_{n-2}) \times P(X_{n-1} \mid X_1,...,X_{n-2}) \times P(X_n \mid X_1,...,X_{n-1}) \\ &= ... \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i \mid X_1,...,X_{i-1}) \end{split}$$

Artificial Intelligence: Uncertainty

Start with the joint probability distribution:

	toothache		¬ toothache	
	catch ¬ catch		catch	¬ catch
cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
¬ cavity	.016	.064	.144	.576

For any proposition φ , sum the atomic events where it is true: $P(\varphi) = \sum_{\omega:\omega \models \varphi} P(\omega)$

Start with the joint probability distribution:

	toothache		¬ toothache	
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cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
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For any proposition φ , sum the atomic events where it is true: $P(\varphi) = \sum_{\omega:\omega \models \varphi} P(\omega)$

$$P(toothache) = 0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064$$

= 0.2

Start with the joint probability distribution:

	toothache		¬ toothache	
	catch ¬ catch		catch	¬ catch
cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
¬ cavity	.016	.064	.144	.576

* Can also compute conditional probabilities:

$$P(\neg cavity \mid toothache) = \frac{P(\neg cavity, toothache)}{P(toothache)}$$

$$= \frac{0.016 + 0.064}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064}$$

$$= 0.4$$

Start with the joint probability distribution:

	toothache		¬ toothache	
	catch		catch	¬ catch
cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
¬ cavity	.016	.064	.144	.576

* Can also compute conditional probabilities:

$$P(cavity | toothache) = \frac{P(cavity, toothache)}{P(toothache)}$$

$$= \frac{0.108 + 0.012}{0.108 + 0.012 + 0.016 + 0.064}$$

$$= 0.6$$

Start with the joint probability distribution:

	toothache		¬ toothache	
	catch		catch	¬ catch
cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
¬ cavity	.016	.064	.144	.576

* Can also compute conditional probabilities:

$$P(cavity | toothache) + P(\neg cavity | toothache) = 1$$

Normalization

	toothache		¬ toothache	
	catch	¬ catch	catch	¬ catch
cavity	.108	.012	.072	.008
¬ cavity	.016	.064	.144	.576

• Denominator can be viewed as a normalization constant α

```
\mathbf{P}(Cavity \mid toothache) = \alpha, \mathbf{P}(Cavity, toothache)
= \alpha, [\mathbf{P}(Cavity, toothache, catch) + \mathbf{P}(Cavity, toothache, \neg catch)]
= \alpha, [<0.108, 0.016> + <0.012, 0.064>]
= \alpha, <0.12, 0.08>
= <0.6, 0.4>
```

General idea: compute distribution on query variable by fixing evidence variables and summing over hidden variables

Inference by enumeration, contd.

Typically, we are interested in the posterior joint distribution of the query variables **Y** given specific values **e** for the evidence variables **E**

Let the hidden variables be $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{E}$

Then the required summation of joint entries is done by summing out the hidden variables:

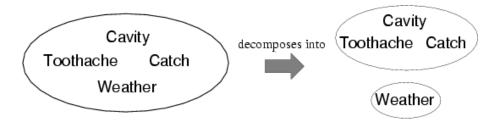
$$P(Y \mid E = e) = \alpha P(Y,E = e) = \alpha \Sigma_h P(Y,E = e, H = h)$$

- ❖ The terms in the summation are joint entries because **Y**, **E** and **H** together exhaust the set of random variables
- Obvious problems:
 - 1. Worst-case time complexity $O(d^n)$ where d is the largest arity
 - 2. Space complexity $O(d^n)$ to store the joint distribution
 - 3. How to find the numbers for $O(d^n)$ entries?

Independence

A and B are independent iff

$$\mathbf{P}(A/B) = \mathbf{P}(A)$$
 or $\mathbf{P}(B/A) = \mathbf{P}(B)$ or $\mathbf{P}(A, B) = \mathbf{P}(A) \mathbf{P}(B)$



P(Toothache, Catch, Cavity, Weather)
= P(Toothache, Catch, Cavity) P(Weather)

- ❖ 32 entries reduced to 12; for *n* independent biased coins, $O(2^n)$ $\rightarrow O(n)$
- ❖ Absolute independence powerful but rare
- Dentistry is a large field with hundreds of variables, none of which are independent. What to do?

Conditional independence

- P(Toothache, Cavity, Catch) has $2^3 1 = 7$ independent entries
- ❖ If I have a cavity, the probability that the probe catches in it doesn't depend on whether I have a toothache:
 - (1) **P**(catch | toothache, cavity) = **P**(catch | cavity)
- * The same independence holds if I haven't got a cavity:
 - (2) $\mathbf{P}(catch \mid toothache, \neg cavity) = \mathbf{P}(catch \mid \neg cavity)$
- ❖ Catch is conditionally independent of Toothache given Cavity:
 P(Catch | Toothache, Cavity) = P(Catch | Cavity)
- ***** Equivalent statements:

```
P(Toothache | Catch, Cavity) = P(Toothache | Cavity)
```

P(Toothache, Catch | Cavity) = **P**(Toothache | Cavity) **P**(Catch | Cavity)

Conditional independence contd.

- * Write out full joint distribution using chain rule:
 - **P**(Toothache, Catch, Cavity)
 - = **P**(*Toothache* / *Catch, Cavity*) **P**(*Catch, Cavity*)
 - = **P**(*Toothache | Catch, Cavity*) **P**(*Catch | Cavity*) **P**(*Cavity*)
 - = **P**(*Toothache | Cavity*) **P**(*Catch | Cavity*) **P**(Cavity)
- \clubsuit In most cases, the use of conditional independence reduces the size of the representation of the joint distribution from exponential in n to linear in n.
- ❖ Conditional independence is our most basic and robust form of knowledge about uncertain environments.

Bayes' Rule

Product rule:

$$P(a \land b) = P(a,b)$$

$$= P(a) \times P(b \mid a)$$

$$= P(b) \times P(a \mid b)$$

❖ Bayes' rule:

$$P(a \mid b) = \frac{P(b \mid a) \times P(a)}{P(b)}$$

or in distribution form

$$P(a \mid b) = \alpha \times P(b \mid a) \times P(a)$$

Bayes' Rule

Usefulness:

For assessing diagnostic probability from causal probability:

$$P(cause | effect) = \frac{P(effect | cause) \times P(cause)}{P(effect)}$$

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Bayes' Rule

- Usefulness:
 - **Example:**
 - ✓ Let *M* be meningitis, (cause)
 - One patient in 10'000 people
 - ✓ Let S be stiff neck: (effect)
 - Ten patients in 100 people
 - ✓ P(S|M): 80% people effected by meningitis have stiff neck

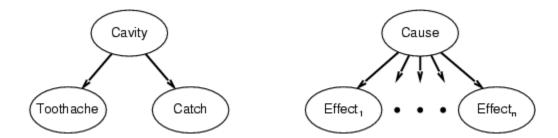
$$P(M \mid S) = \frac{P(S \mid M) \times P(M)}{P(S)}$$
$$= \frac{0.8 \times 0.0001}{0.1}$$
$$= 0.0008$$

Note: posterior probability of meningitis still very small!

Bayes' Rule and conditional independence

 $\mathbf{P}(Cavity \mid toothache \land catch)$

- = a**P**(toothache ∧ catch / Cavity) **P**(Cavity)
- = aP(toothache / Cavity) P(catch / Cavity) P(Cavity)
- * This is an example of a naïve Bayes model: $P(Cause, Effect_1, ..., Effect_n) = P(Cause) \pi_i P(Effect_i | Cause)$



 \diamond Total number of parameters is linear in n

Bayesian networks

❖ A simple, graphical notation for conditional independence assertions and hence for compact specification of full joint distributions

Syntax:

a set of nodes, one per variable

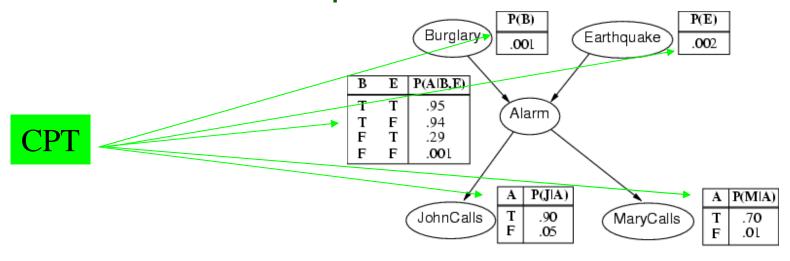
a directed, acyclic graph (link ≈ "directly influences")

a conditional distribution for each node given its parents:

 $P(X_i | Parents(X_i))$

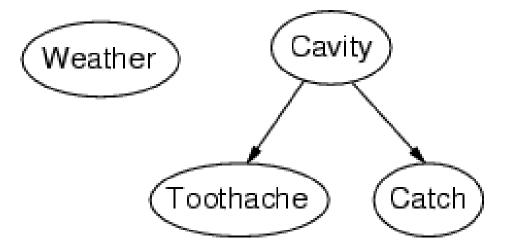
Bayesian networks

- ❖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

* Topology of network encodes conditional independence assertions:

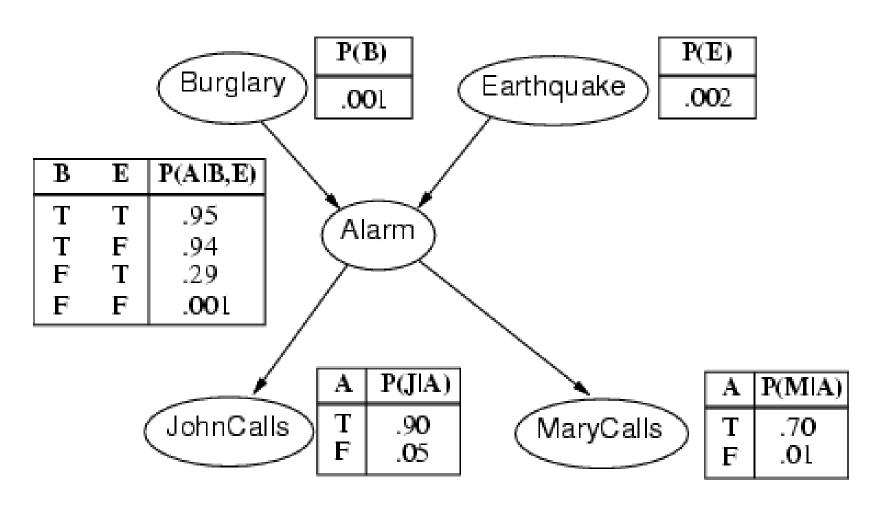


- * Weather is independent of the other variables
- ❖ Toothache and Catch are conditionally independent given Cavity

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

Example contd.



Compactness

- A CPT for Boolean X_i with k Boolean parents has 2^k rows for the combinations of parent values
- A Each row requires one number p for $X_i = true$ (the number for $X_i = false$ 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. $2^5-1 = 31$)

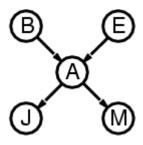
Semantics

The full joint distribution is defined as the product of the local conditional distributions:

$$P(X_1, ..., X_n) = \pi_{i=1}^n P(X_i / Parents(X_i))$$

e.g.,
$$\mathbf{P}(j \wedge m \wedge a \wedge \neg b \wedge \neg e)$$

= $\mathbf{P}(j \mid a) \mathbf{P}(m \mid a) \mathbf{P}(a \mid \neg b, \neg e) \mathbf{P}(\neg b) \mathbf{P}(\neg e)$



Constructing Bayesian networks

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

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

This choice of parents guarantees:

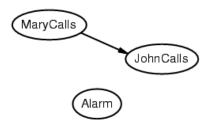
$$P(X_1, ..., X_n) = \pi_{i=1}^n P(X_i / X_1, ..., X_{i-1})$$
 (chain rule)
= $\pi_{i=1}^n P(X_i / Parents(X_i))$ (by construction)

 \clubsuit Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



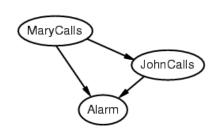
$$P(J \mid M) = P(J)$$
?

 \clubsuit Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E



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

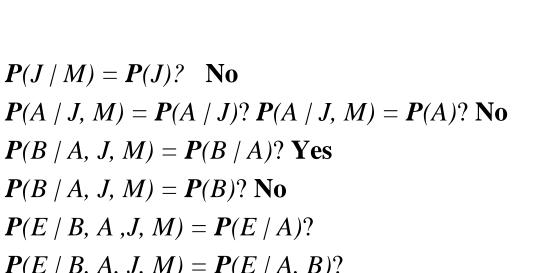
 \clubsuit Suppose we choose the ordering M, J, A, B, E

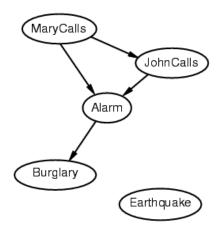


$$P(J | M) = P(J)$$
? No $P(A | J, M) = P(A)$? No $P(B | A, J, M) = P(B | A)$? $P(B | A, J, M) = P(B)$?



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





P(J / M) = P(J)? **No**

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

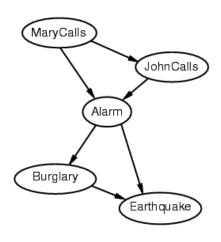
P(B | A, J, M) = P(B)? **No**

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

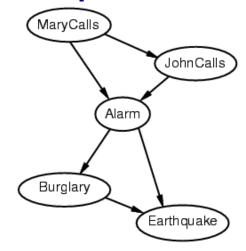
P(E | B, A, J, M) = P(E | A, B)?

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



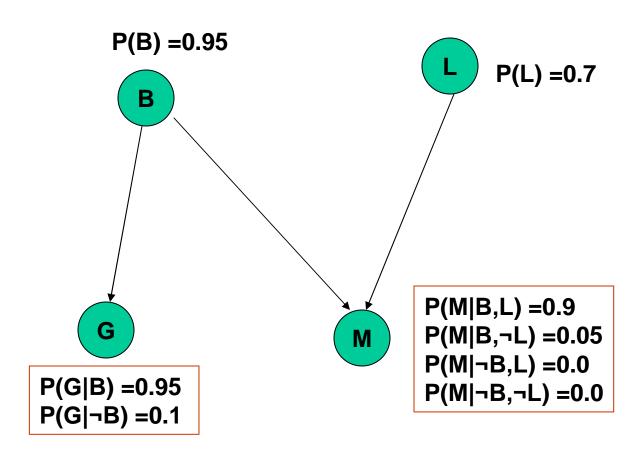
Example contd.



- ❖ Deciding conditional independence is hard in noncausal directions
- (Causal models and conditional independence seem hardwired for humans!)
- ightharpoonup Network is less compact: 1 + 2 + 4 + 2 + 4 = 13 numbers needed

Example

- Consider problem: "block-lifting"
- **B**: the battery is charged.
- L: the block is liftable.
- \bowtie M: the arm moves.
- **□** G: the gauge indicates that the battery is charged



Again, pls note:

$$p(G,M,B,L) = p(G|M,B,L)p(M|B,L)p(B|L)p(L)$$
$$= p(G|B)p(M|B,L)p(B)p(L)$$

Specification:

➤ Traditional: 16 rows

BayessianNetworks: 8 rows – see previous page.

Reasoning: top-down

Example:

If the block is liftable, compute the probability of arm moving.

ightharpoonup I.e., Compute p(M | L)

- * Reasoning: top-down
 - Solution:

Insert parent nodes:

$$p(M|L) = p(M,B|L) + p(M,\neg B|L)$$

Use chain rule:

$$p(M|L) = p(M|B,L)p(B|L) + p(M|,\neg B,L)p(\neg B|L)$$

Remove independent node:

$$p(B|L) = p(B)$$
: B does not have PARENT $p(\neg B|L) = p(\neg B) = 1 - p(B)$

- * Reasoning: top-down
 - Solution:

```
p(M|L) = p(M|B,L)p(B) + p(M|, \neg B,L)(1 - p(B))= 0.9 \times 0.95 + 0.0 \times (1 - 0.95)= 0.855
```

* Reasoning: bottom-up

Example:

- ≥ If the arm cannot move
- Compute the probability that the block is not liftable.
- \searrow I.e., Compute: $p(\neg L|\neg M)$

* Reasoning: bottom-up

Use Bayesian Rule:

$$p(\neg L \mid \neg M) = \frac{p(\neg M \mid \neg L) p(\neg L)}{p(\neg M)}$$

Compute top-down reasoning

$$p(\neg M|\neg L) = 0.9525$$
 –exercise $p(\neg L) = 1$ - $p(L) = 1$ - $0.7 = 0.3$

$$p(\neg L \mid \neg M) = \frac{0.9525*0.3}{p(\neg M)} = \frac{0.28575}{p(\neg M)}$$

Reasoning: bottom-up

Compute the negation component:

$$p(L \mid \neg M) = \frac{0.0595*0.7}{p(\neg M)} = \frac{0.03665}{p(\neg M)}$$

We have

$$p(\neg L \mid \neg M) + p(L \mid \neg M) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\neg M) = 0.3224$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\neg L \mid \neg M) = 0.88632$$

* Reasoning: explanation

Example

- \supset If we know ¬B (the battery is not charged)
- \searrow Compute p($\neg L$ | $\neg B$, $\neg M$)

Artificial Intelligence: Uncertainty

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* Reasoning: explanation

$$p(\neg L \mid \neg B, \neg M) = \frac{p(\neg M, \neg B \mid \neg L)p(\neg L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\neg M \mid \neg B, \neg L)p(\neg B \mid \neg L)p(\neg L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\neg M \mid \neg B, \neg L)p(\neg B)p(\neg L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}, \text{ because B,L are independent}$$

$$= \frac{[1 - p(M \mid \neg B, \neg L)] \times [1 - p(B)] \times [1 - p(L)]}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{[1 - 0.0] \times [1 - 0.95] \times [1 - 0.7]}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{0.015}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

* Reasoning: explanation

$$p(L \mid \neg B, \neg M) = \frac{p(\neg M, \neg B \mid L)p(L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\neg M \mid \neg B, L)p(\neg B \mid L)p(L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\neg M \mid \neg B, L)p(\neg B)p(L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}, \text{ because B,L are independent}$$

$$= \frac{[1 - p(M \mid \neg B, L)] \times [1 - p(B)] \times p(L)}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{[1 - 0.0] \times [1 - 0.95] \times 0.7}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

$$= \frac{0.035}{p(\neg B, \neg M)}$$

* Reasoning: explanation

$$p(\neg L \mid \neg B, \neg M) + p(L \mid \neg B, \neg M) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{0.015}{p(\neg B, \neg M)} + \frac{0.035}{p(\neg B, \neg M)} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\neg B, \neg M) = 0.045$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\neg L \mid \neg B, \neg M) = \frac{0.015}{0.045}$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\neg L \mid \neg B, \neg M) = 0.33$$

Summary

- Probability is a rigorous formalism for uncertain knowledge
- Joint probability distribution specifies probability of every atomic event
- Queries can be answered by summing over atomic events
- ❖ For nontrivial domains, we must find a way to reduce the joint size
- **❖** Independence and conditional independence provide the tools

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