

Homework 3

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Problem 1. Consider the inference problem of evaluating $p(\mathbf{x}_n|\mathbf{x}_N)$ for the graph shown in Figure 1, for all nodes $n \in \{1, \dots, N-1\}$. Show that the message passing algorithm can be used to solve this efficiently, and discuss which messages are modified and in what way.

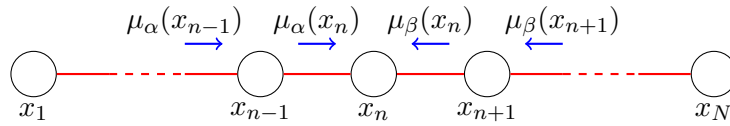


Figure 1: Chain of nodes model

Problem 2. Apply the sum-product algorithm to the chain of nodes model in Figure 1 and show that the results of message passing algorithm are recovered as a special case, that is

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x_n) &= \frac{1}{Z} \mu_\alpha(x_n) \mu_\beta(x_n) \\
 \mu_\alpha(x_n) &= \sum_{x_{n-1}} \psi_{n-1,n}(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mu_\alpha(x_{n-1}) \\
 \mu_\beta(x_n) &= \sum_{x_{n+1}} \psi_{n+1,n}(x_{n+1}, x_n) \mu_\beta(x_{n+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\psi_{i,i+1}(x_i, x_{i+1})$ is a potential function defined over clique $\{x_i, x_{i+1}\}$.

Solution:

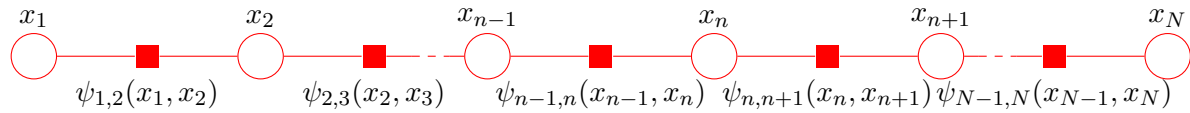


Figure 2: Factor graph for chain of nodes model

The first thing to do to apply the sum-product algorithm to the chain model of Figure 1 is to transform it into a factor graph. The factor graph for the chain model is shown in Figure 2.

Once we have a factor graph, we need to choose a root node, *e.g.*, x_n , so that we can start propagating messages from the leaf nodes (x_1 and x_N) to the root. We start by propagating messages from x_1 to

the root:

$$\mu_{x_1 \rightarrow \psi_{1,2}}(x_1) = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$\mu_{\psi_{1,2} \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) = \sum_{x_1} \psi_{1,2}(x_1, x_2) \quad (2)$$

$$\mu_{x_2 \rightarrow \psi_{2,3}}(x_2) = \mu_{\psi_{1,2} \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_{\psi_{2,3} \rightarrow x_3}(x_3) = \sum_{x_2} \psi_{2,3}(x_2, x_3) \mu_{x_2 \rightarrow \psi_{2,3}}(x_2) \quad (4)$$

$$\vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots$$

$$\mu_{x_{n-1} \rightarrow \psi_{n-1,n}}(x_{n-1}) = \mu_{\psi_{n-2,n-1} \rightarrow x_{n-1}}(x_{n-1}) \quad (5)$$

$$\mu_{\psi_{n-1,n} \rightarrow x_n}(x_n) = \sum_{x_{n-1}} \psi_{n-1,n}(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mu_{x_{n-1} \rightarrow \psi_{n-1,n}}(x_{n-1}) \quad (6)$$

and we note that a message that a variable node sends on one link is equal to the message that node has received on its other link. That is variable nodes act as *proxies* for messages created at factor nodes.

If we define $\mu_\alpha(x_n)$ as the incoming from the left factor node to variable node x_n , we have that

$$\mu_\alpha(x_n) \equiv \mu_{\psi_{n-1,n} \rightarrow x_n}(x_n) \quad (7)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n-1}} \psi_{n-1,n}(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mu_{x_{n-1} \rightarrow \psi_{n-1,n}}(x_{n-1}) \quad (8)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n-1}} \psi_{n-1,n}(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mu_{\psi_{n-2,n-1} \rightarrow x_{n-1}}(x_{n-1}) \quad (9)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n-1}} \psi_{n-1,n}(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mu_\alpha(x_{n-1}) \quad (10)$$

If we compute in the same way the messages from leaf node x_N to the root node x_n , we obtain that

$$\mu_\beta(x_n) \equiv \mu_{\psi_{n,n+1} \rightarrow x_n}(x_n) \quad (11)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n+1}} \psi_{n,n+1}(x_n, x_{n+1}) \mu_{x_{n+1} \rightarrow \psi_{n,n+1}} \quad (12)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n+1}} \psi_{n,n+1}(x_n, x_{n+1}) \mu_{\psi_{n+1,n+2} \rightarrow x_{n+1}}(x_{n+1}) \quad (13)$$

$$= \sum_{x_{n+1}} \psi_{n,n+1}(x_n, x_{n+1}) \mu_\beta(x_{n+1}) \quad (14)$$

Finally applying eq. 8.63 from Bishop (with the addition of the normalizing constant Z that we know from the full joint distribution or we can compute locally on the node x_n) we have that

$$p(x_n) = \frac{1}{Z} \mu_{\psi_{n-1,n} \rightarrow x_n}(x_n) \mu_{\psi_{n,n+1} \rightarrow x_n}(x_n) \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \mu_\alpha(x_n) \mu_\beta(x_n) \quad (16)$$

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Problem 3. Run sum-product algorithm on the graph in Figure 3 with node x_3 designed as the root. Using the computed messages given in *p.409 Bishop*.

1. Show that the correct marginals are obtained for x_1 and x_3 .
2. Show that the sum-product algorithm on this graph gives the correct joint distribution for x_1, x_2 .

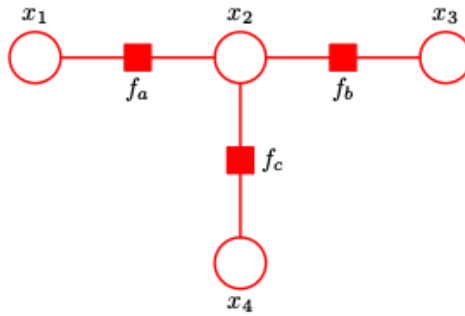


Figure 3: A simple factor graph

Solution:

1.

$$p(x_1) = \mu_{f_a \rightarrow x_1}(x_1) \quad (17)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_a(x_1, x_2) \mu_{x_2 \rightarrow f_a}(x_2) \quad (18)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_a(x_1, x_2) \mu_{f_b \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \mu_{f_c \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \quad (19)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_a(x_1, x_2) \sum_{x_3} f_b(x_2, x_3) \sum_{x_4} f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (20)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2, x_3, x_4} f_a(x_1, x_2) f_b(x_2, x_3) f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (21)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2, x_3, x_4} p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \quad (22)$$

$$p(x_3) = \mu_{f_b \rightarrow x_3}(x_3) \quad (23)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_b(x_2, x_3) \mu_{x_2 \rightarrow f_b}(x_2) \quad (24)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_b(x_2, x_3) \mu_{f_a \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \mu_{f_c \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \quad (25)$$

$$= \sum_{x_2} f_b(x_2, x_3) \sum_{x_1} f_a(x_1, x_2) \sum_{x_4} f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (26)$$

$$= \sum_{x_1, x_2, x_4} f_b(x_2, x_3) f_a(x_1, x_2) f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (27)$$

$$= \sum_{x_1, x_2, x_4} p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \quad (28)$$

2.

$$p(x_1, x_2) = f_a(x_1, x_2) \mu_{x_1 \rightarrow f_a}(x_1) \mu_{x_2 \rightarrow f_a}(x_2) \quad (29)$$

$$= f_a(x_1, x_2) \mu_{f_b \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \mu_{f_c \rightarrow x_2}(x_2) \quad (30)$$

$$= f_a(x_1, x_2) \sum_{x_3} f_b(x_2, x_3) \sum_{x_4} f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (31)$$

$$= f_a(x_1, x_2) \sum_{x_3, x_4} f_b(x_2, x_3) f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (32)$$

$$= \sum_{x_3, x_4} f_a(x_1, x_2) f_b(x_2, x_3) f_c(x_2, x_4) \quad (33)$$

$$= \sum_{x_3, x_4} p(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \quad (34)$$

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Problem 4. Show that the marginal distribution for the variables \mathbf{x}_s in a factor $f_s(\mathbf{x}_s)$ in a tree-structured factor graph, after running the sum-product message passing algorithm, can be written as

$$p(\mathbf{x}_s) = f_s(\mathbf{x}_s) \prod_{i \in \text{ne}(f_s)} \mu_{x_i \rightarrow f_s}(x_i)$$

where $\text{ne}(f_s)$ denotes the set of variable nodes that are neighbors of the factor node f_s