

COMP0130: Robotic Vision and Navigation

Lecture 06B: Graphical Models and Factor Graphs

Structure

- Motivation
- Bayesian Filtering
- Graphical Models
- Factor Graphs

What We've Seen So Far...

- In linear systems, the KF produces excellent results but there are issues with computational and storage costs
- In nonlinear systems, the EKF produces poor and divergent results because the dependency structure isn't represented properly
- We need to have better and scalable ways to store the probability

Algorithms for Map Making

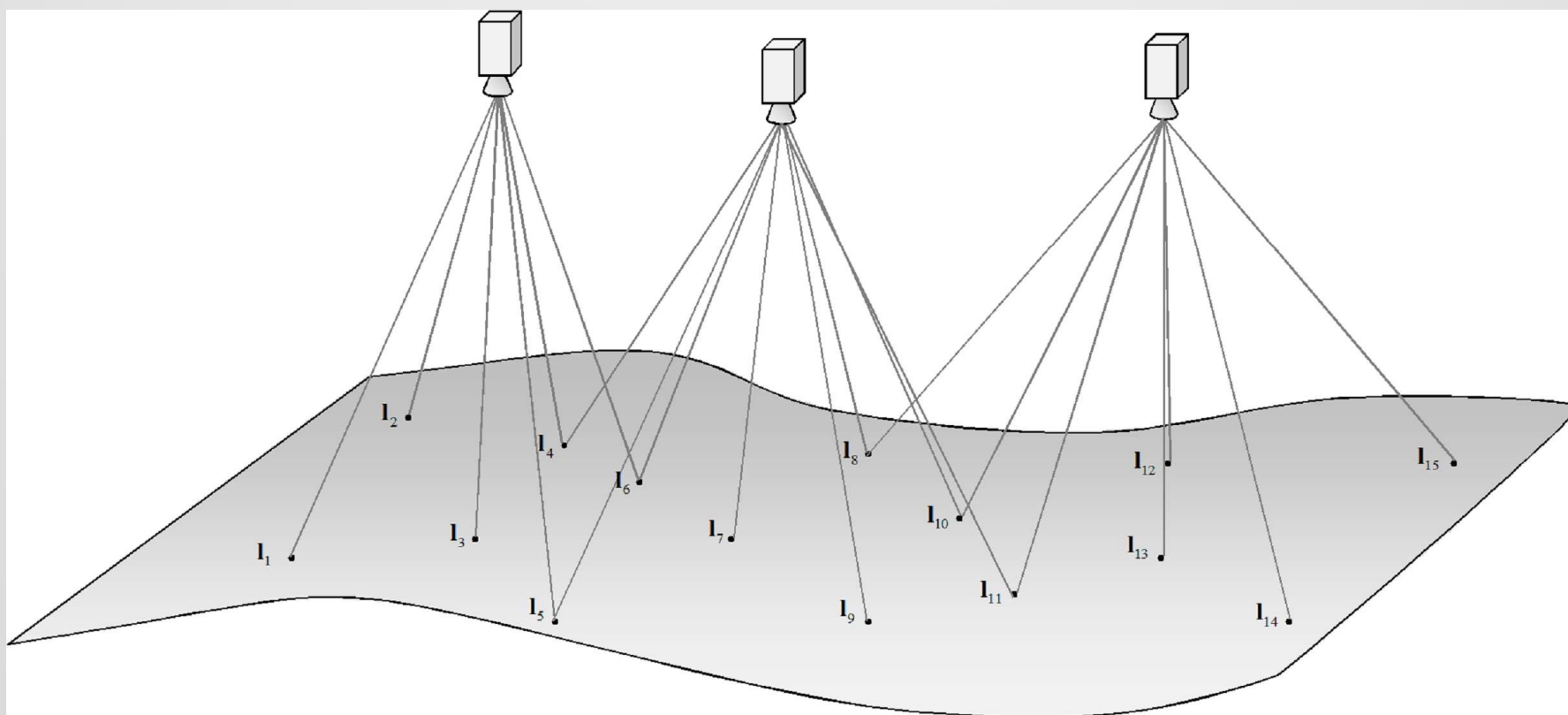
- The problem of buildings maps is not restricted to the SLAM community
- In cartography, people need to build maps of the environment

Aerial Photography and Map Making



Part of a photographic plate used for map making from the 1950s

Using Photogrammetry for Map Making

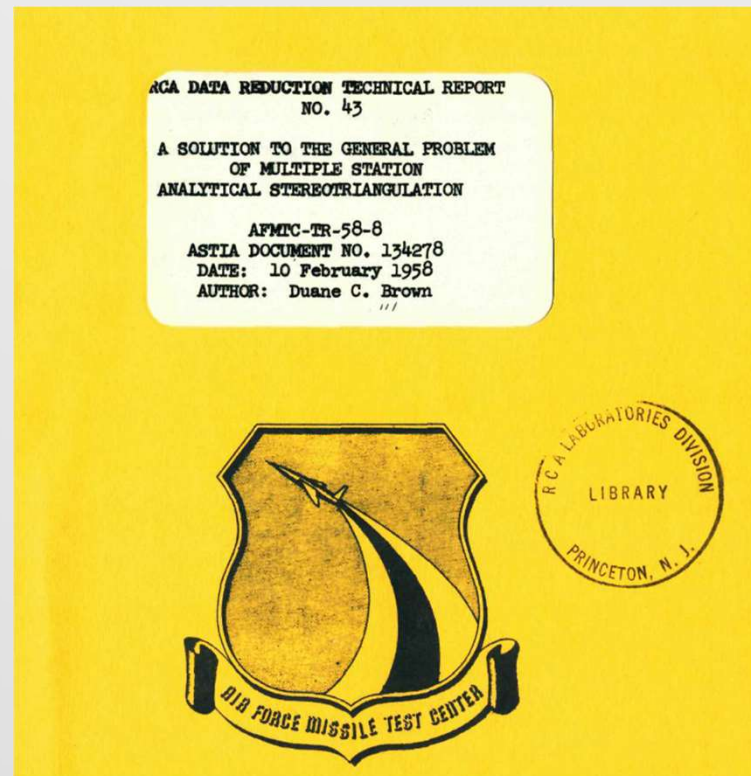


From <http://www.geodetic.com/v-stars/what-is-photogrammetry.aspx>

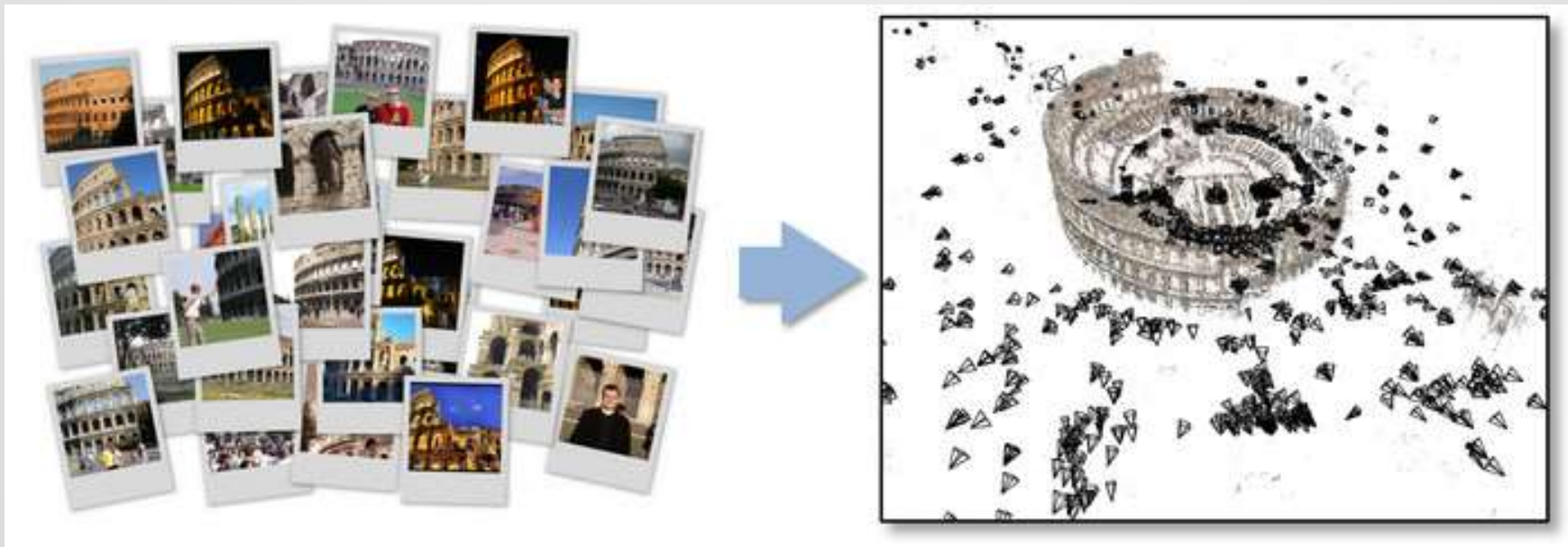
Algorithms from Mapping

- The problem of buildings maps is not restricted to the SLAM community
- In cartography, people need to build maps of the environment
- The approach is called *Structure from Motion* and uses *Bundle Adjustment*

Using Photogrammetry for Map Making



Structure from Motion



Structure from Motion



SLAM Wants Structure-from-Motion

- Structure-from-motion is an existence proof that it is possible to generate accurate maps of the world
- However, the estimation techniques used are not filtering algorithms
- Rather, they are special cases of an approach called a *Factor Graph*

SLAM Wants Factor Graphs

- Factor Graphs operate in a *completely different way* to Kalman filters
- Therefore, we are going to spend the rest of this lecture actually understanding what these systems are and how to make inferences from them
- Once we've done that, we can return to the SLAM problem again
- We'll start by looking at Bayesian filtering

Bayesian Filtering

- *Motivation*
- Bayesian Filtering
- *Graphical Models*
- *Factor Graphs*

Bayesian Filtering

- The goal is to produce a recursive estimation algorithm a bit like a Kalman filter
- However we will generalise it:
 - We do not restrict ourselves to a linear update rule
 - We propagate the entire probability distribution, not just the first two moments

Bayesian Filtering

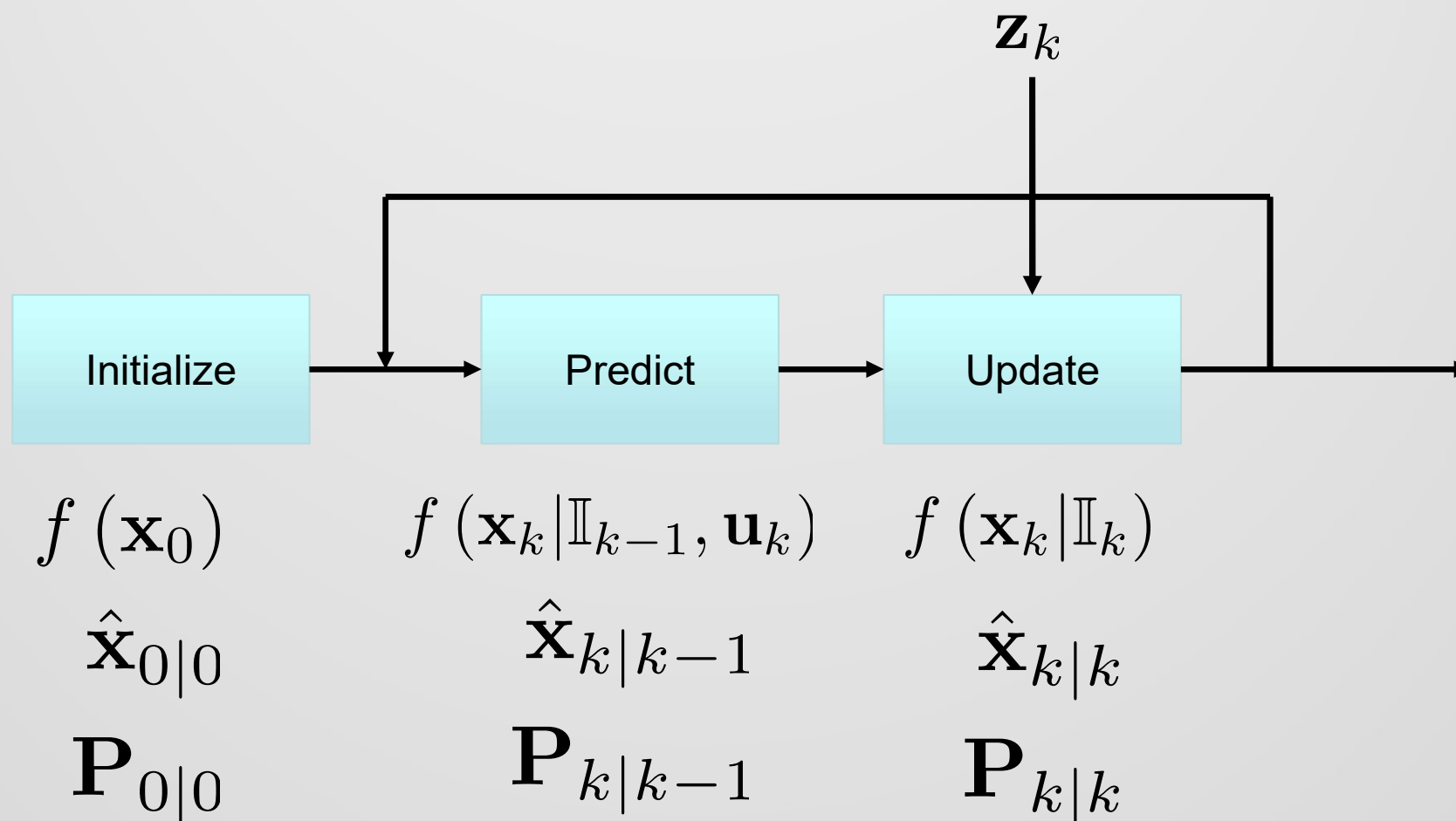
- For the moment we won't look at the SLAM context
- Therefore, the process model is

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{f} [\mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{v}_k]$$

- The observation model is

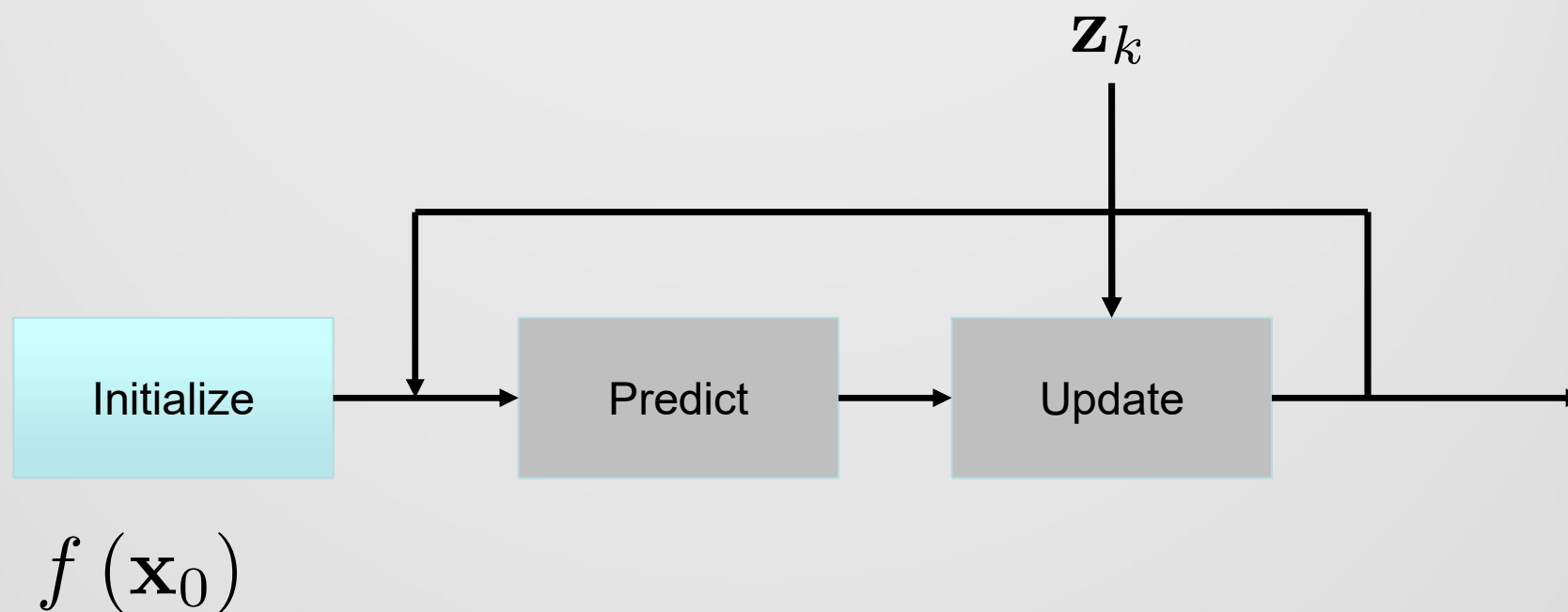
$$\mathbf{z}_k = \mathbf{h} [\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{w}_k]$$

Bayesian Filter

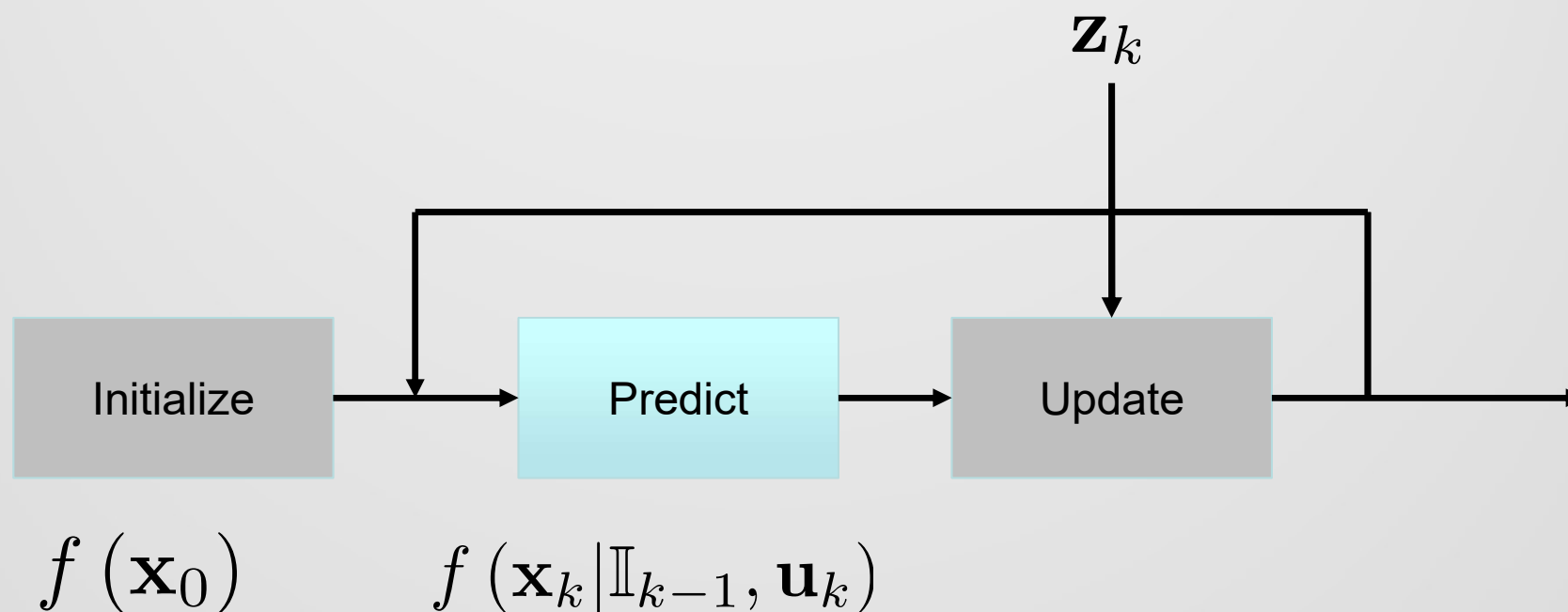


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Bayesian Filter Initialization



Prediction Step



$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) = f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{Z}_{0:k-1}, \mathbf{U}_{0:k}, \mathbf{x}_0)$$

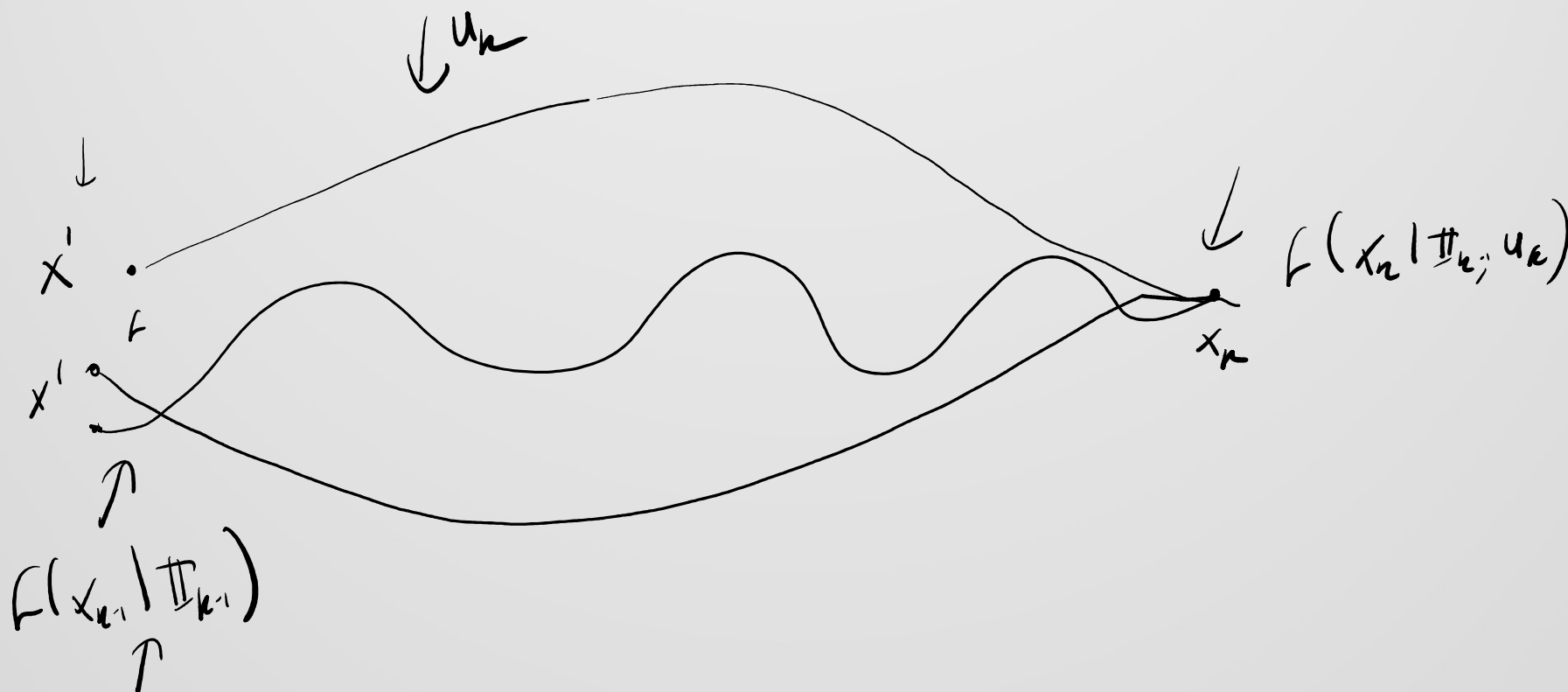
Prediction and Chapman-Kolmogorov

- The predicted distribution is computed from the Chapman-Kolmogorov Equation

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) = \int_S f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}) d\mathbf{x}'$$

The Chapman-Kolmogorov Equation

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) = \int \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{I}_{k-1})}_{\text{Handwritten box}} d\mathbf{x}'$$



Working out the State Transition Equation

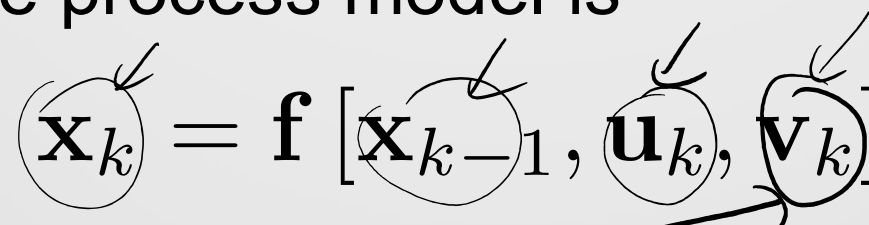
- We need to have an expression for the state transition probability

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) \leftarrow$$

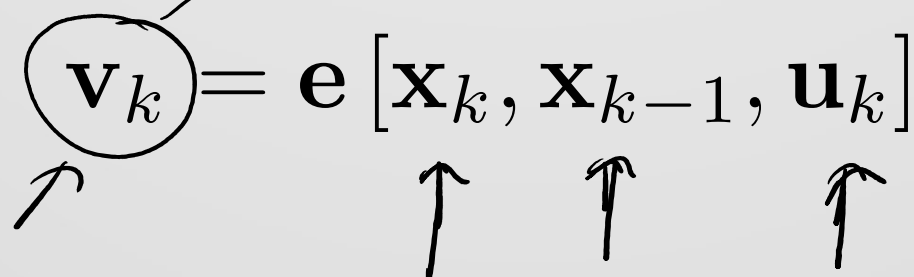
- We derive get this from the process model

Understanding Chapman-Kolmogorov

- Recall the process model is

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{f} [\mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{v}_k]$$


- Suppose there is an inverse process model which finds all the set of values

$$\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{e} [\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k]$$




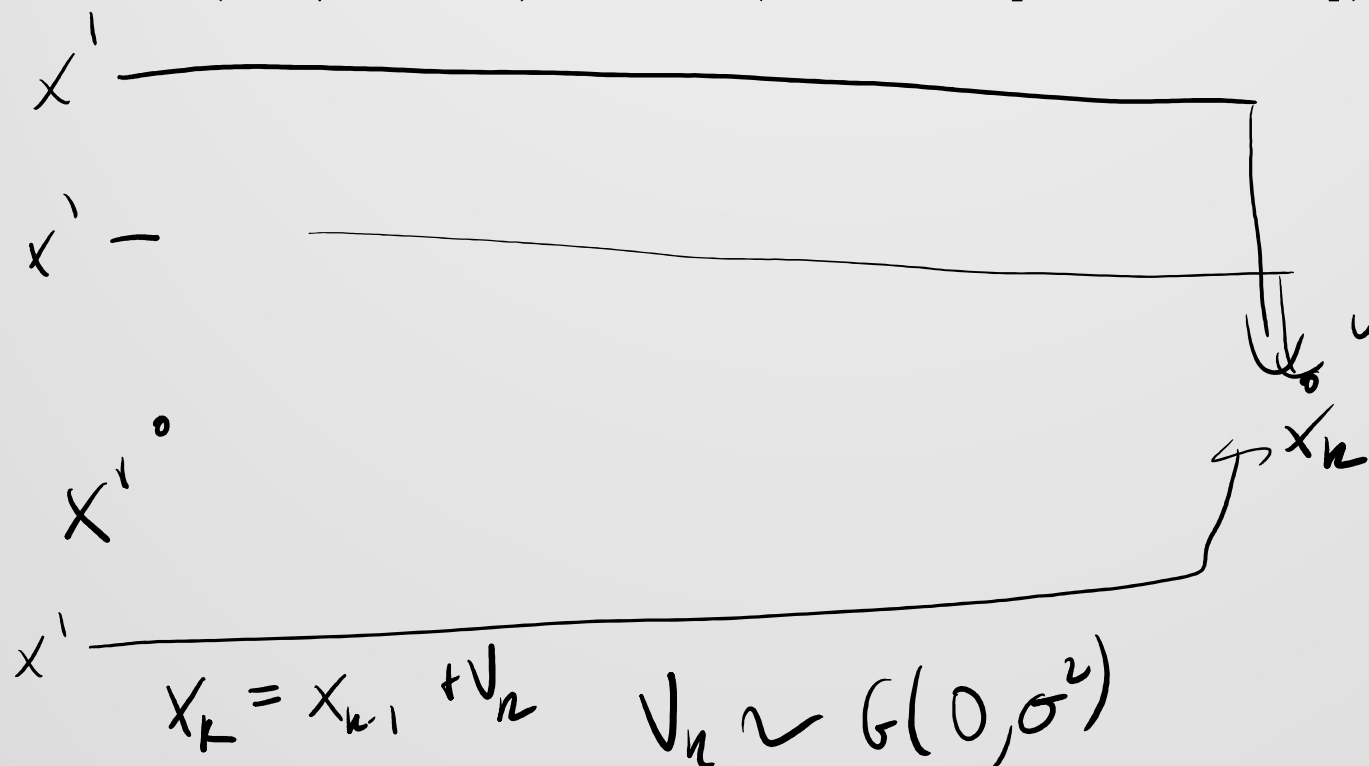
Understanding Chapman-Kolmogorov

- Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) \\
 &= \underset{\nearrow}{f_{\mathbf{v}}}(\underset{\uparrow}{\mathbf{v}_k} = \underset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{e}}[\underset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{x}_k}, \underset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{x}'}, \underset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{u}_k}])
 \end{aligned}$$

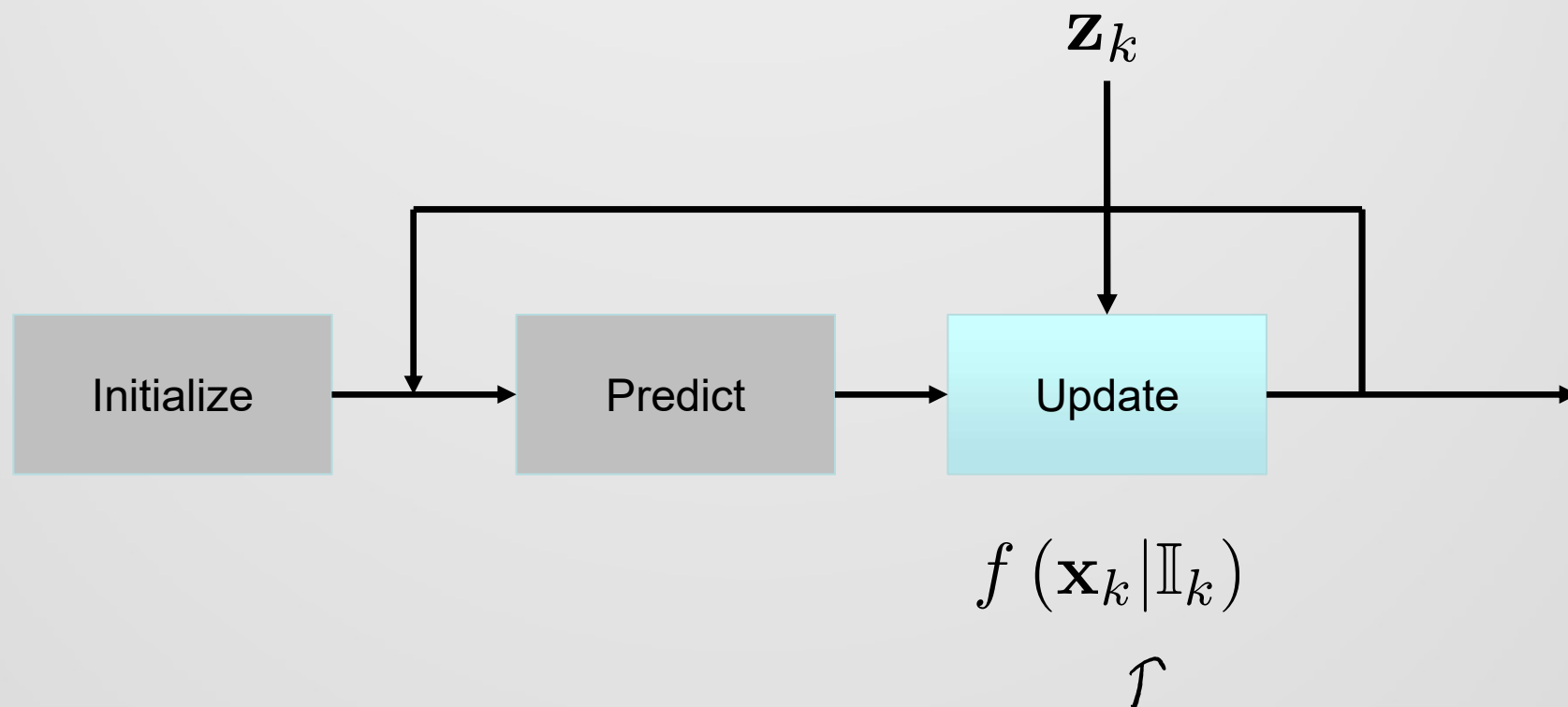
Understanding Chapman-Kolmogorov

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) = f_v(\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{e}[\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k])$$



$$x_k = x_{k-1} + v_k \quad v_k \sim G(0, \sigma^2)$$

Measurement Update



Measurement Update

- We use Bayes Rule,

$$\underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_k)} = \frac{\underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)}_{\text{Measurement Likelihood}} \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k)}_{\text{Transition Model}}}{\underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k)}_{\text{Predicted Likelihood}}}$$

Measurement Likelihood Equation

- We compute the likelihood from the observation equation

$$\mathbf{z}_k = \mathbf{h} [\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{w}_k]$$

(Note: In the original image, \mathbf{z}_k is circled and \mathbf{w}_k has a downward arrow pointing to the second equation.)

- We assume that we have an inverse observation model of the form

$$\mathbf{w}_k = \mathbf{l} [\mathbf{z}_k, \mathbf{x}_k]$$

(Note: In the original image, \mathbf{w}_k has an upward arrow pointing from the first equation, and \mathbf{x}_k has a downward arrow.)

Measurement Likelihood Equation

- Therefore, the measurement likelihood equations,

$$f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k) = f_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{w}_k = \mathbf{l}[\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{z}_k])$$

- This is sometimes written as the likelihood function

$$\underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k)} = \overbrace{L(\mathbf{x}_k; \mathbf{z}_k)} \leftarrow$$

$$f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k) = L(\mathbf{x}_k; \mathbf{z}_k)$$

Normalization Constant

- We also have to compute the normalization constant

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k)} \\ &= \underline{\int f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}') f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) d\mathbf{x}'} \end{aligned}$$

Bayesian Filters

- Bayesian filters are the optimal solution for filtering and estimation
- They describe exactly the probability distribution in question with no approximation and uncertainty
- Therefore, if we could use them in SLAM, all the issues with drift will go away
- However, they are impossible to implement

Why Are They Impossible?

- We have to compute two integrals:

$$\rightarrow f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) = \int f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}) d\mathbf{x}'$$

$$\rightarrow f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) = \int f(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}') f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{I}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) d\mathbf{x}'$$

- In most systems closed form solutions do not exist

Approximate Bayesian Filters

- Approximate solutions have been derived
- These include (retroactively) the Kalman filter and particle filters
- However, all these approaches introduce errors which will accumulate in SLAM



Integration-Free Approaches

- We must develop new methods to do Bayes filtering which avoids the need to integrate in either the prediction or the update steps
- We will use *graphical models* to avoid integration in the prediction step
- We will use *maximum likelihood* estimation to avoid integration in the update step
- For the rest of this lecture we'll look at graphical models and factor graphs

Graphical Models

- *Motivation*
- *Bayesian Filtering*
- Graphical Models
- *Factor Graphs*

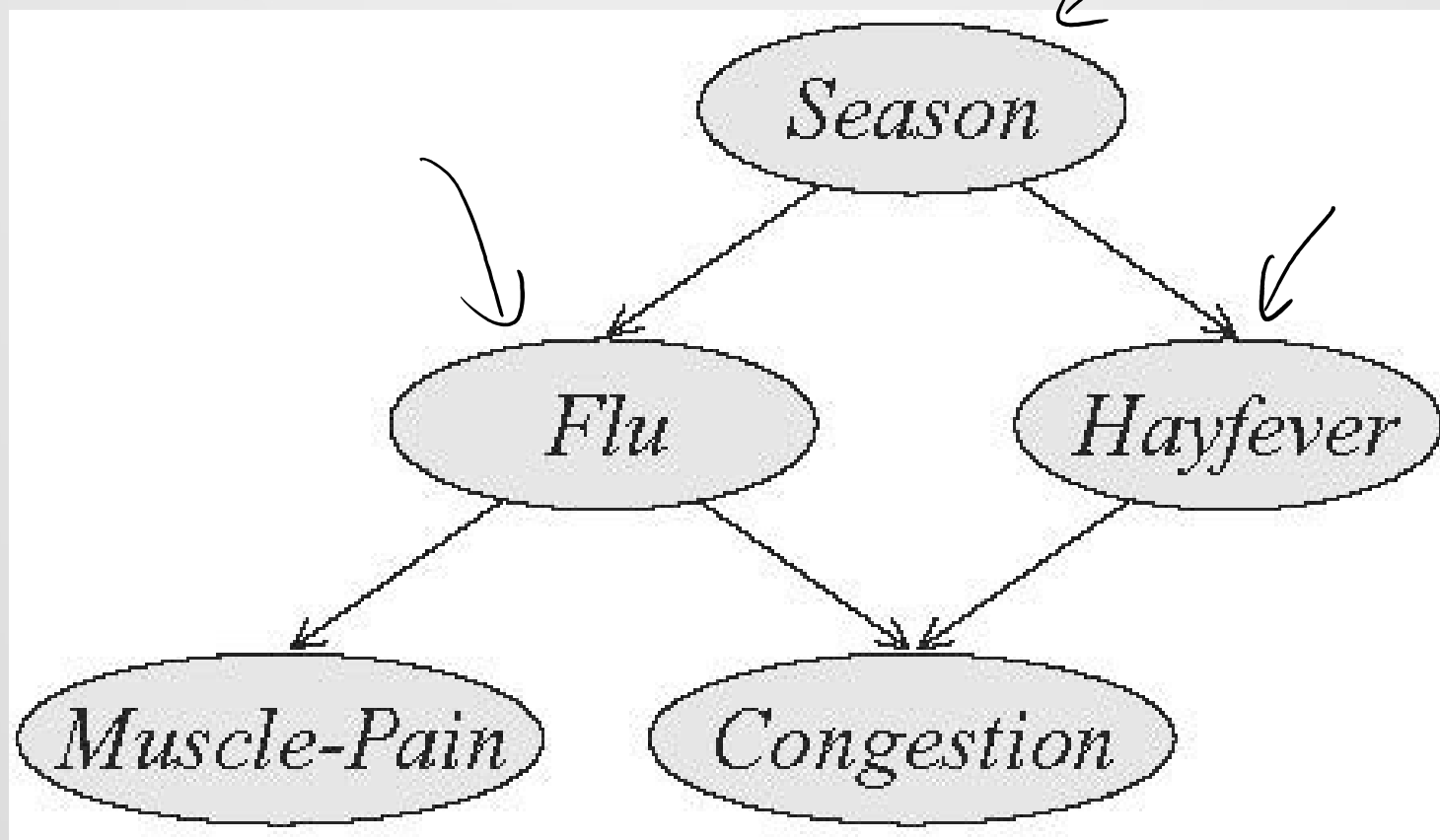
Graphical Models

- Graphical models are a general way to describe probability distributions over multiple random variables
- They decompose a probability distribution into a set of conditional random variables and nodes
- This makes it possible to use a “divide and conquer” strategy to simplify analysis

Graphical Representation

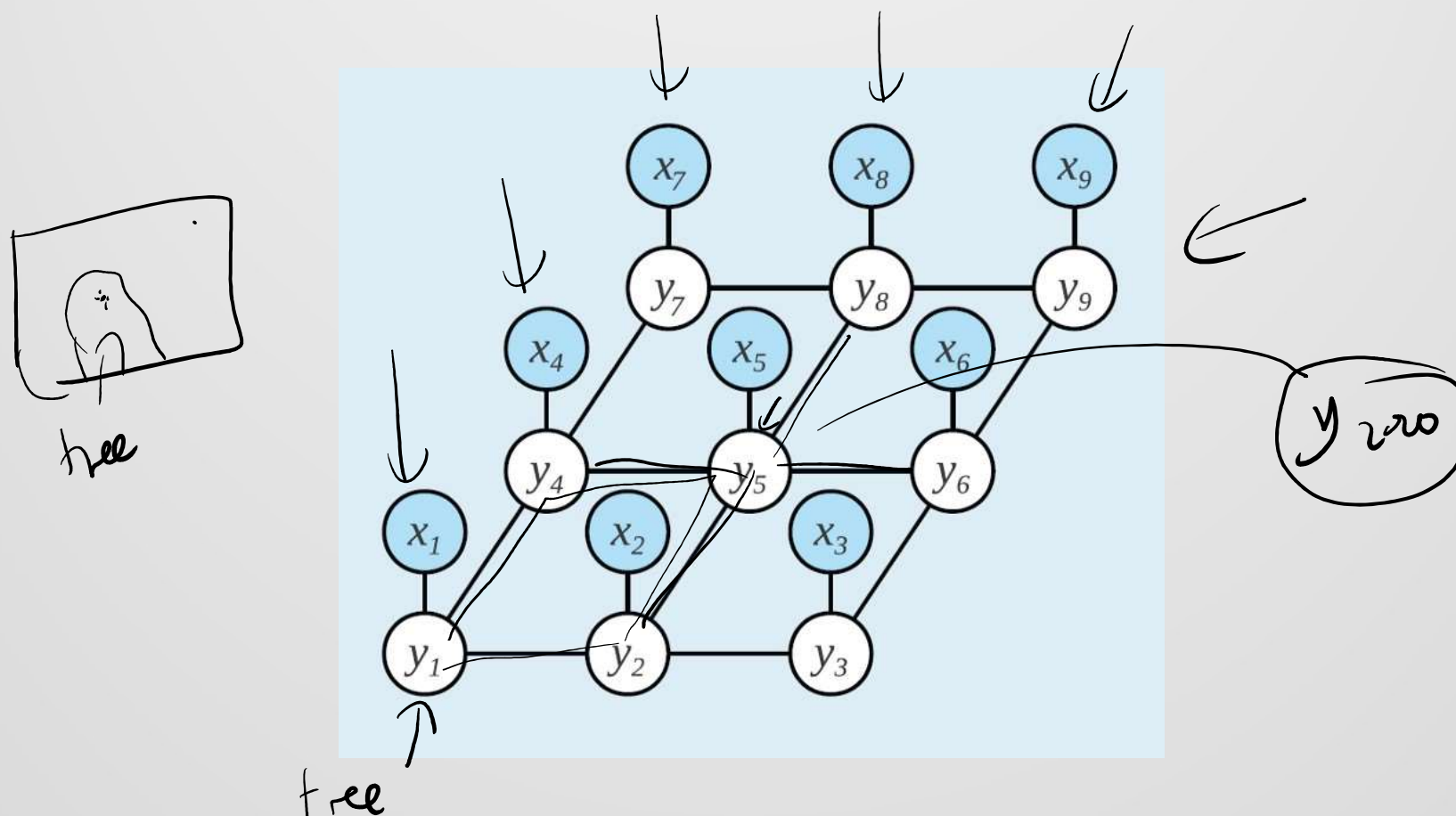
- We can also represent this as a graph:
 - The *vertices* denote the variables or events of interest
 - The *edges* specify conditional probabilities between those variables or events
- This representation is incredibly general

Probabilistic Graph of Disease



From [“Counting non-redundant parameters in graphical models”](#)

Probabilistic Graph of Pixel Labels



From ["Understanding Graphical Models Intuitively"](#)

Probabilistic Graphical Models

- Consider the joint probability over two random variables

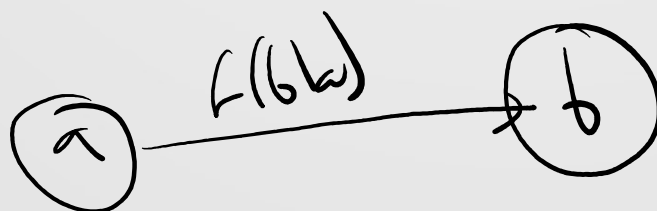
$$f(\underset{\nearrow}{\mathbf{a}}, \underset{\nwarrow}{\mathbf{b}}) \leftarrow$$

- From conditional probability, we can write this as:

$$f(\underset{\nearrow}{\mathbf{a}}, \underset{\nwarrow}{\mathbf{b}}) = f(\underset{\nearrow}{\mathbf{a}}) f(\underset{\nwarrow}{\mathbf{b}} | \underset{\nwarrow}{\mathbf{a}})$$

Graphical Representation

$$f(a, b) = f(a)f(b|a)$$



Graphical Representation

- Suppose we now consider the joint distribution over five random variables

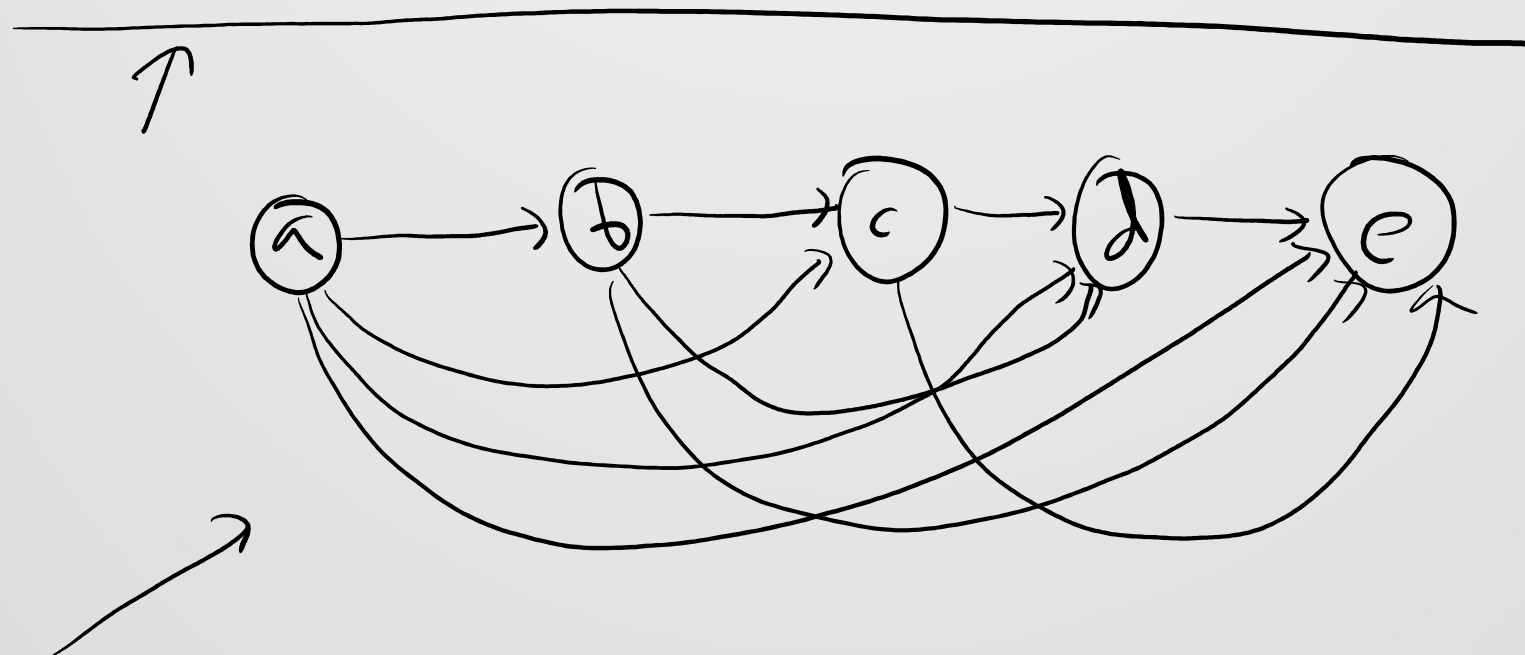
$$f(a, b, c, d, e)$$

- Using conditional probabilities, this is

$$f(a, b, c, d, e) = f(a) f(b|a) f(c|a, b) f(d|a, b, c) f(e|a, b, c, d)$$

Graphical Model Representation

$$f(a)f(b|a)f(c|a, b)f(d|a, b, c)f(e|a, b, c, d)$$



Graphical Representation

- If the relationship between all the variables is arbitrary, graphical models don't help very much
- However, in many situations, the graphical models come from actual physical systems
- As a result, there can be a very strong dependency between the random variables
- This applies a very strong structure to the graph

Graphical Representation

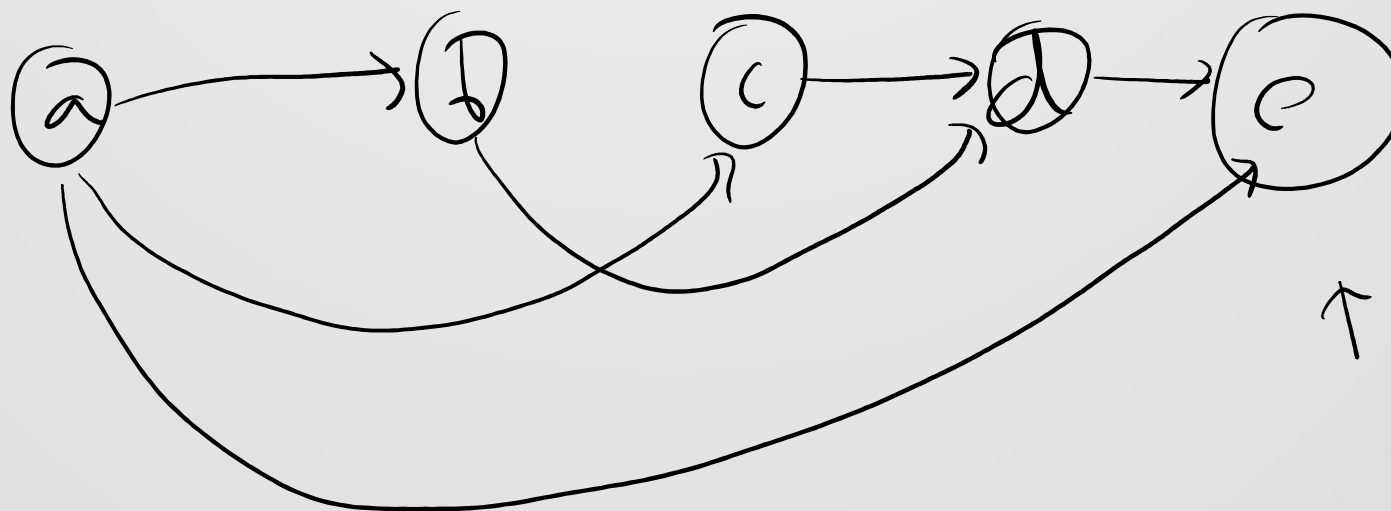
- Suppose it turns out that the relationship between the variables is

$$f(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{e}) = f(\mathbf{a})f(\mathbf{b}|\mathbf{a})f(\mathbf{c}|\mathbf{a}) \\ \times f(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})f(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d})$$

\nearrow

Graphical Model Representation

$$f(\mathbf{a})f(\mathbf{b}|\mathbf{a})f(\mathbf{c}|\mathbf{a})f(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})f(\mathbf{e}|\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d})$$



Graphical Representation of Prediction

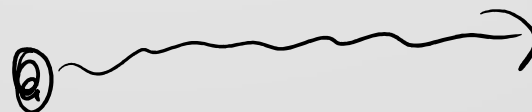
- We are now going to look at how to express the prediction problem graphically
- The standard prediction problem is to compute the distribution

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{U}_k)$$

\uparrow \uparrow

$$\mathbf{U}_k = \{\mathbf{U}_{1:k}, \mathbf{x}_0\}$$

\downarrow \downarrow



Bayesian Filter Approach

- The standard Bayesian filter approach is to keep running the prediction step over and over again

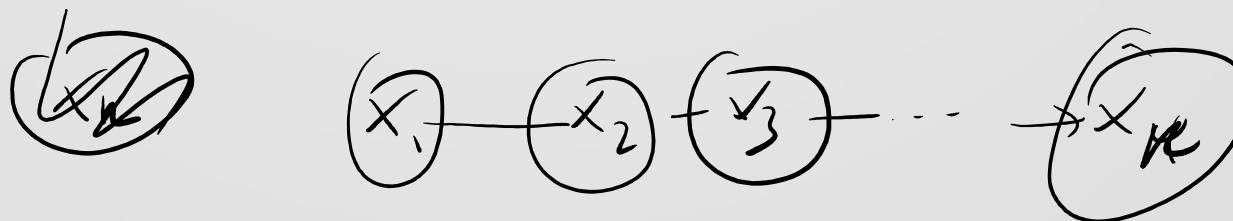
$$\begin{aligned}
 f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{U}_k) &= f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbb{U}_{k-1}, \mathbf{u}_k) \\
 &= \int \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{u}_k) f(\mathbf{x}' | \mathbb{U}_{k-1})}_{\text{prediction step}} d\mathbf{x}'
 \end{aligned}$$

- However, this introduces the integration issues

Graphical Model Approach to Prediction

- Suppose, instead, that we predict the *entire history* of the state of the platform,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:k} | \mathbf{U}_k)$$



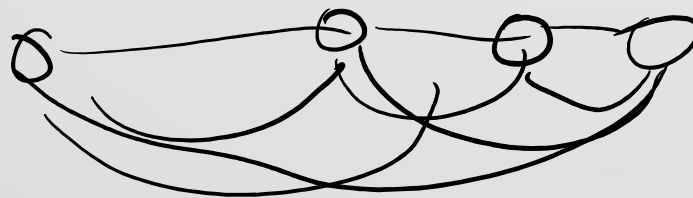
Joint History State Space

- The space consists of the estimate of the entire state history of the platform over time,

$$\begin{array}{c} \cancel{x_0} \end{array} \quad \mathbf{x}_{1:k} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_k \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \\ \cup \\ \cup \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \cancel{x_n} \end{array}$$

Graphical Model Approach to Prediction

- Although this model contains more variables than the filtering case, it's actually easier to compute
- The reason is that the process model introduces a very strong constraint on the temporal relationship between variables



Predicting the First Step

- The joint prediction is given by

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{x}_0) = f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

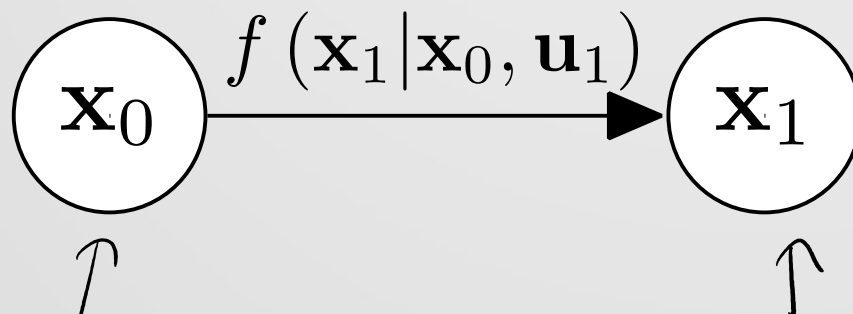
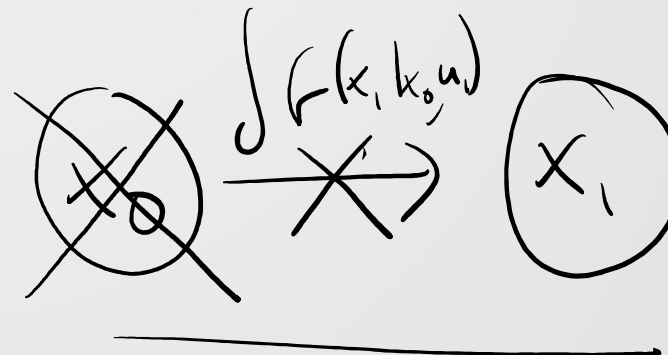
$$p(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{u}_1)$$

↙ ↗

↑
State transition
density

↑
Prior

Graph for the First Step



Predicting the Second Step

- Now suppose we want to compute

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{U}_2)$$

- We can follow the same decomposition strategy and write

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{U}_2) = f(\mathbf{x}_2 | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbb{U}_2) f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{U}_2)$$

$\nearrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$

$\mathbb{U}_2 = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2\}$

Graphical Model Approach to Prediction

- Recall from the process model that

$$\underset{\uparrow}{\mathbf{x}}_k = \mathbf{f} \left[\underset{\uparrow}{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}, \underset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{u}}_k, \mathbf{v}_k \right]$$

- Therefore, the state at time k just depends on the state at time $k - 1$ and the control input at k
- It does not depend on the state or control at any other timestep

Prediction

- Therefore, the equations simplify to

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{U}_2) = f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) \leftarrow \\ f(\mathbf{x}_2 | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbb{U}_2) = f(\mathbf{x}_2 | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u}_2) \leftarrow \end{array} \right.$$

$\nwarrow \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{x}_0$
 $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{x}_0$
 \uparrow

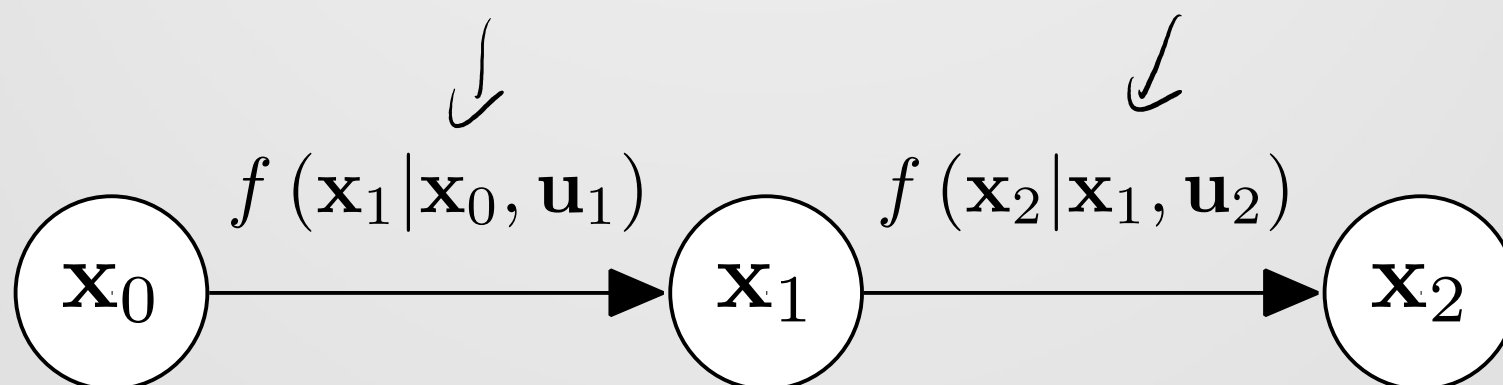
Prediction

- Substituting, we get

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{U}_2) \overset{\approx}{=} \underset{\uparrow}{f(\mathbf{x}_2 | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u}_2)} \underset{\downarrow}{f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1)} \times \underset{\uparrow}{f(\mathbf{x}_0)}$$

- This has no integration again

Graph for the Second Step



Prediction

- By induction we can expand this to k timesteps to get

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:k} | \mathbb{U}_k) = \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{\uparrow \quad \uparrow} \prod_{i=1}^k \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{u}_i)}_{\uparrow}$$

\downarrow (above $f(\mathbf{x}_0)$) \downarrow (above $f(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{u}_i)$)

Graphical Model Approach to Updates

- We will now extend this to include observations
- We now seek to compute

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:k} | \mathbb{I}_k)$$

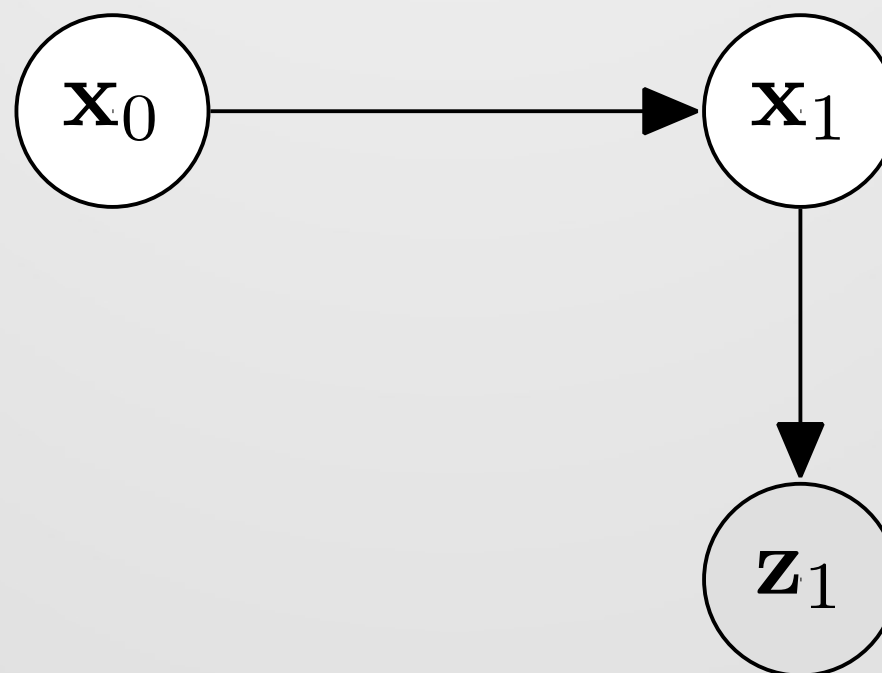
$$\mathbb{I}_k = \{\mathbf{Z}_{0:k}, \mathbf{U}_{0:k}, \mathbf{x}_0\}$$

Graphical Model Approach to Updates

- Consider the case when there is a single prediction step followed by a single update
- The joint density in this case is

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{I}_1)$$

In Graphical Form



Incorporating Observations

- We can use Bayes Rule to incorporate the observation,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{I}_1) = \frac{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{U}_1)}{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbb{U}_1)}$$

Incorporating Observations

- Substituting for the predictions,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{I}_1) = \frac{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_0)}{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbb{U}_1)}$$

Normalization Constant

- We have to compute this from

$$f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbb{U}_1) = \int \underline{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}'_1)} f(\mathbf{x}'_1 | \mathbb{U}_1) d\mathbf{x}'_{0:1}$$

$$\text{(constant)} = \int f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}'_1) \overbrace{f(\mathbf{x}'_1 | \mathbf{x}'_0, \mathbf{u}_1)} \overbrace{f(\mathbf{x}'_0)} d\mathbf{x}'_{0:1}$$

- We will treat it as an (unknown) constant for now
- When we look at inference, we'll see how to eliminate it

Putting it All Together

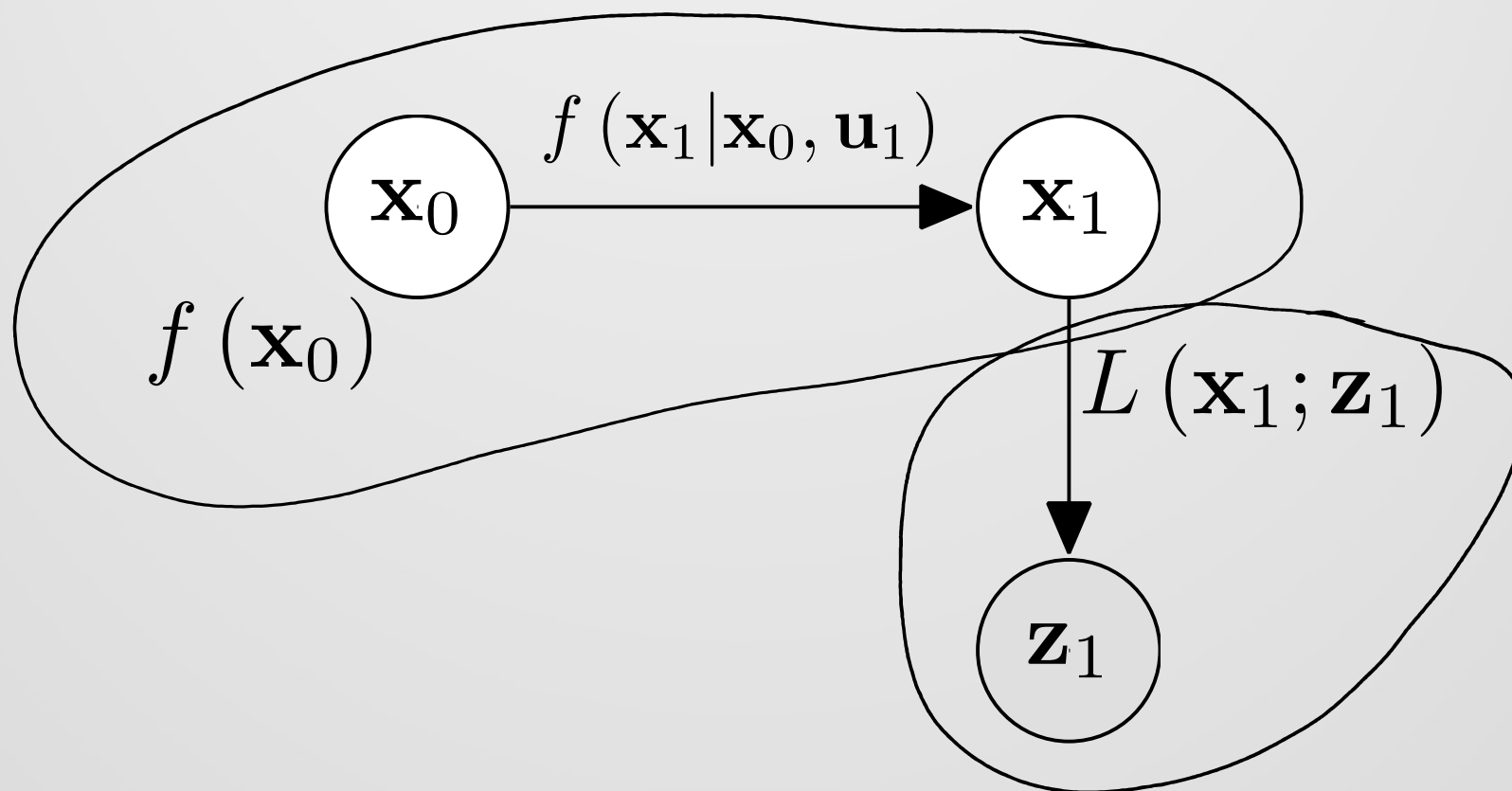
- Substituting everything, the joint density can be written as

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{I}_1) \propto \underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1)}_{\text{likelihood}} \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{\text{prior}}$$

- Substituting for the likelihood, we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbb{I}_1) \propto \underbrace{L(\mathbf{x}_1; \mathbf{z}_1)}_{\text{likelihood}} f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

In Graphical Form



2 Timestep Case

- The form for the 2 timestep case is

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{I}_2) = \frac{f(\mathbf{z}_{1:2} | \mathbf{x}_{1:2}) f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{U}_2)}{\underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_{1:2} | \mathbb{U}_2)}_{\leftarrow}}$$

- We'll need to separate out the likelihood and the prediction terms

Likelihood

- Recall from the observation model that the observation at timestep k only depends on the state at timestep k

$$\mathbf{z}_k = \mathbf{h} [\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{w}_k] \leftarrow$$

- Therefore,

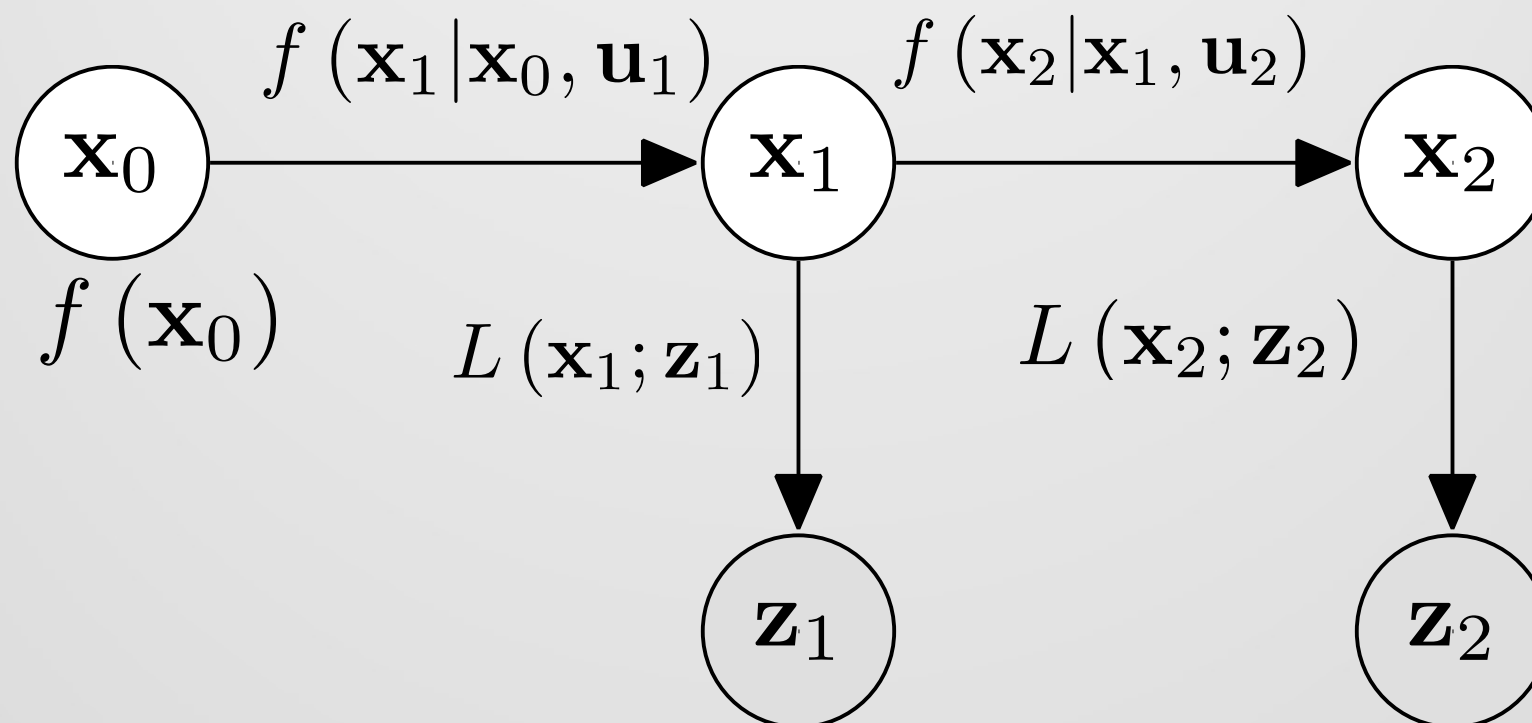
$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{z}_{1:2} | \mathbf{x}_{1:2}) &= \underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_2 | \mathbf{x}_2)} \underbrace{f(\mathbf{z}_1 | \mathbf{x}_1)} \\ &= \underbrace{L(\mathbf{x}_2; \mathbf{z}_2)} \underbrace{L(\mathbf{x}_1; \mathbf{z}_1)} \leftarrow \end{aligned}$$

Incorporating Observations

- Substituting this and the prediction we saw earlier,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{1:2} | \mathbb{I}_2) \propto \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_2 | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{u}_2) f(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}_1) f(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{\times \underbrace{L(\mathbf{x}_2; \mathbf{z}_2) L(\mathbf{x}_1; \mathbf{z}_1)}}$$

2D Step Case



General Form

- We can apply this recursively for k timesteps,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{0:k} | \mathbb{I}_k) \propto f(\mathbf{x}_0) \prod_{i=1}^k \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{u}_i)}_{f_v}$$

$$\times \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^k L(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{z}_i)}_{f_w}$$

↗

Extensions

- The graph is incredibly easy to extend
- For example, if the observations are only intermittently available in the set Z

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{0:k} | \mathbb{I}_k) \propto f(\mathbf{x}_0) \prod_{i=1}^k f(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{u}_i)$$

\nearrow
 $\times \prod_{i \in Z}^k L(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{z}_i) \nwarrow$

Factor Graphs

- *Motivation*
- *Bayesian Filtering*
- *Graphical Models*
- Factor Graphs

Factor Graphs

- The graphical models introduced are examples of Bayes networks
- These networks consist of multiplying terms together
- These can be equivalently represented using factor graphs
- Since factor graphs are extensively used in the literature, we'll define them here

Factor Graphs

- Suppose we want to evaluate the function

$$\underline{g(\mathbf{Y})}, \quad \underline{\mathbf{Y} = \{y_0, \dots, y_n\}}$$

- If this function were arbitrary, there's not a lot we can do
- However, factor graphs assume it can be written as

$$\underline{g(\mathbf{Y})} = \prod_{j=1}^{\overset{(m)}{\leftarrow}} g_j^{\leftarrow}(\mathbf{s}_j^{\leftarrow}), \quad \underline{\mathbf{s}_j \subseteq \mathbf{Y}}$$

General Factor Graph Example

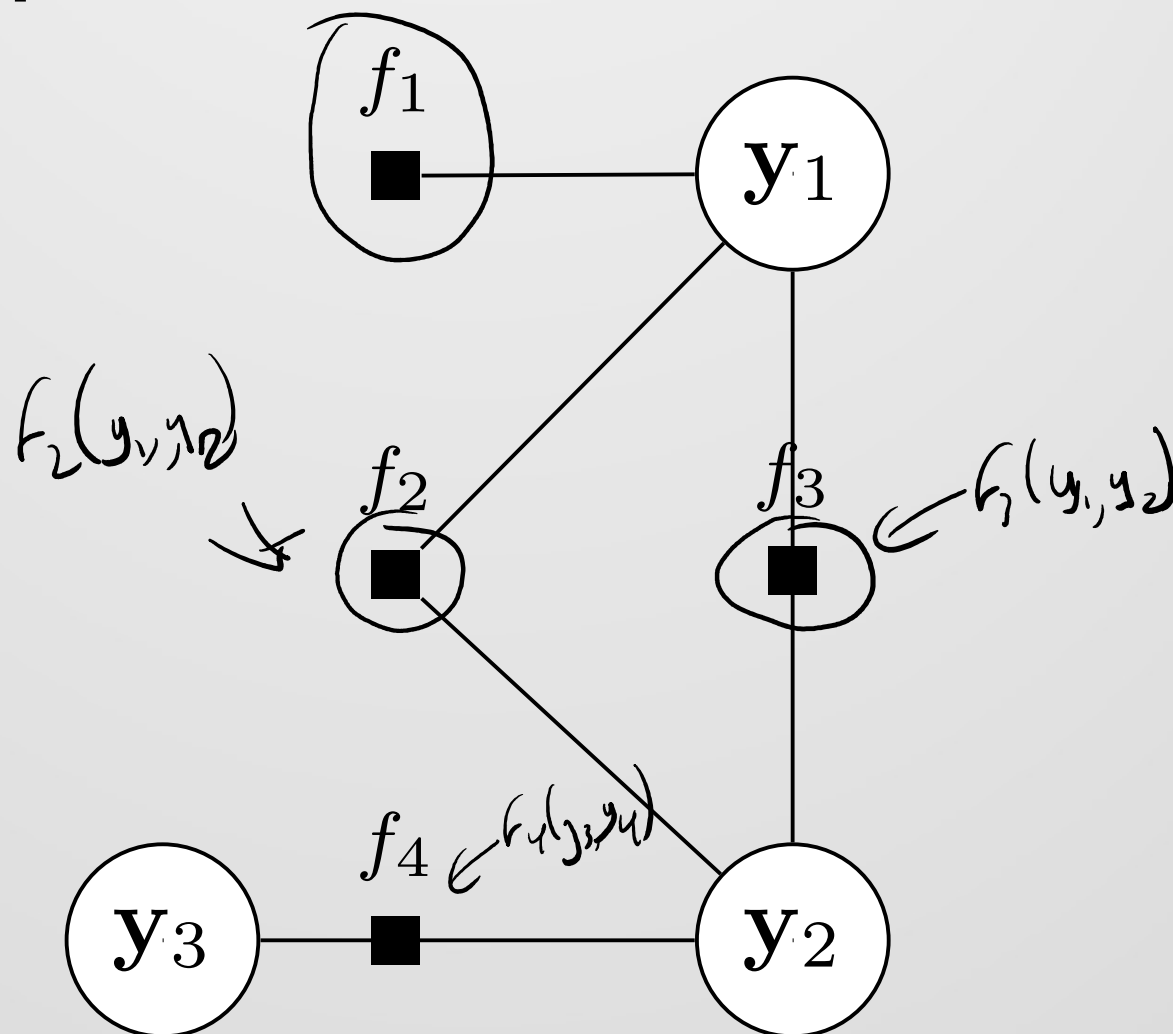
- For example, consider the function

$$g(y_1, y_2, y_3)$$

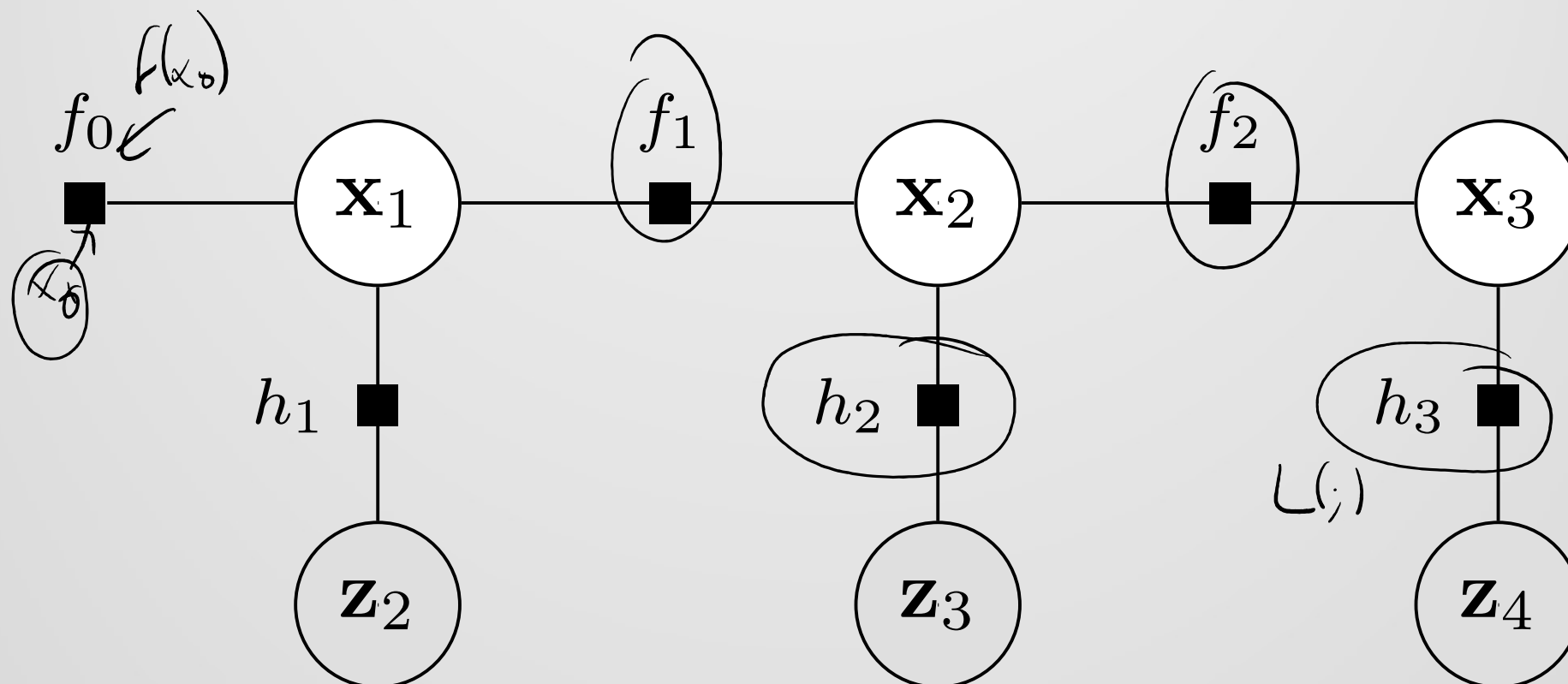
- Suppose it can be factorised as

$$g(y_1, y_2, y_3) = \underbrace{f_1(y_1)}_{\text{factor 1}} \underbrace{f_2(y_1, y_2)}_{\text{factor 2}} \times \underbrace{f_3(y_1, y_2)}_{\text{factor 3}} \underbrace{f_4(y_2, y_3)}_{\text{factor 4}}$$

Factor Graph Structure



Estimation in a Factor Graph



Summary

- We have introduced graphical models as a way to simplify implementation of the Bayes filter
- Using the entire state history, we eliminate the need to integrate during the prediction
- However, we still need to compute a normalization constant
- We also haven't said how we'll extract values
- We handle both of these issues using *maximum likelihood estimation*