

Probabilistic Graphical Models

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Statistical model.

Definition 1.1. A *statistical model* is an approximation scheme for unknown joint probability distribution.

The general purpose of many statistical models is to *estimate the joint probability distribution* of several random variables. The joint probability distribution contains data about relations of the random variables. For example, suppose our goal is to obtain the most possible value of Y when given $X = x$, and we have already estimated the joint distribution function $f_{X,Y}$. Then, since the function $y \mapsto f_{X,Y}(x, y)$ describes the distribution of the random variable $Y|X = x$, what we want to find can be defined reasonably as

$$\hat{y} = \arg \max_y f_{X,Y}(x, y).$$

Example 1.1. A random field, which we have not defined yet, is a way to represent several random variables together with their dependencies. Therefore, a parameterized random field gives a statistical model. In this case, training means an approximating process to find the best parameter, usually written as β .

1.2. Random fields.

Definition 1.2 (Random field). A *random field* is a set of random variables parametrized by a topological space or a (directed or undirected) graph.

Definition 1.3. In this note, a term *random field* or *network* will be used to refer to random fields on a graph.

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Example 1.2 (Markov chain). Define a graph $G = (V, E)$ and \mathcal{S} such that:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \\ E &= \{(t, t+1)\}_{t \in V}, \\ \mathcal{S} &= \text{a finite set.} \end{aligned}$$

An element $t \in V$ denotes the time t . Then, the set of \mathcal{S} -valued random variables $\{X_t\}_{t \in V}$ indexed by V defines a random field.

The Markov property is given by

$$X_t \perp\!\!\!\perp X_s \mid X_{t-1}$$

for $s \leq t$. Since \mathcal{S} is finite, alternatively we may rewrite it by

$$\Pr(X_t = x_t \mid X_{t-1} = x_{t-1}) = \Pr(X_t = x_t \mid X_{t-1} = x_{t-1}, \dots, X_0 = x_0).$$

Example 1.3 (Maxwell-Boltzman distribution). Let X be a \mathcal{S} -valued random field on a graph $G = (V, E)$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \{n\}_{n=1}^N, \\ E &= \emptyset, \\ \mathcal{S} &= \mathbb{Z}_x^3 \times \mathbb{Z}_p^3 \end{aligned}$$

for a large natural number N . The set V is the set of ideal gas particles, and the space of states \mathcal{S} embodies the discretized phase space. At each particle $n \in V$ is attached an \mathcal{S} -valued random variable denoted by X_n . Our ultimate goal is to describe the joint probability distribution of X_n 's; equivalently, the distribution of a \mathcal{S}^V -valued random variable $X = (X_1, \dots, X_N)$. Elements of \mathcal{S}^V are called *microstates*.

Let $m > 0$ be a constant and fix a parameter $\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T} > 0$ which is called *coldness*. Define the *Boltzmann factor* as a function $\phi_n : \mathbb{R}_{\beta > 0} \times \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\phi_n(\beta, i) := e^{-\beta E(i)},$$

where the *energy function* $E : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$E(x, p) := \frac{\|p\|^2}{2m}.$$

The assumption for Boltzmann factors states that given β , the probability for a particle to be in the state i is proportional to the Boltzmann factor:

$$\Pr(X_n = i_n) \propto \phi_n(\beta, i_n) = e^{-\beta E_{i_n}}$$

for each state $i_n \in \mathcal{S}$ and a fixed particle $n \in V$. Thus, we can write

$$\Pr(X_n = i_n) = \frac{\phi_n(\beta, i_n)}{\sum_{j_n \in \mathcal{S}} \phi_n(\beta, j_n)} =: \frac{\phi_n(\beta, i_n)}{Z_n(\beta)}.$$

If we assume the independence of X_n 's, then we get the disjoint probability distribution

$$\Pr(X = i) = \frac{\phi(\beta, i)}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}^V} \phi(\beta, j)} =: \frac{\phi(\beta, i)}{Z(\beta)},$$

where

$$\phi(\beta, i) := \prod_{n=1}^N \phi_n(\beta, i_n), \quad Z(\beta) = \prod_{n=1}^N Z_n(\beta).$$

The denominator $Z : \mathbb{R}_{\beta>0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is called the *partition function*.

Example 1.4 (Ising model). Let X be a \mathcal{S} -valued random field on a graph $G = (V, E)$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \mathbb{Z}^2, \\ E &= \{(x, y) : \|x - y\| = 1\}, \\ \mathcal{S} &= \{\pm 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

1.3. Independencies. We review the measure-theoretic definition of probability distribution.

Definition 1.4. Let Ω be a measure space with probability measure \Pr and \mathcal{S} a measurable space. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ be a random variable. The *probability distribution* of X is the pushforward measure $X_* \Pr$ on \mathcal{S} defined as $X_* \Pr(A) = \Pr(X^{-1}(A))$ for measurable $A \in \mathcal{S}$. We often also write $\Pr(X \in A)$ for $X_* \Pr(A)$.

We mainly deal with several random variables and their joint distribution. Suppose $X = \{X_n\}_{n=1}^N$ is a set of random variables and let $(\mathcal{S}_n, \mathcal{F}_n)$ be the codomain of X_n .

Definition 1.5. Radon space?

$$\Pr(X \in A \mid Y \in B) := \lim_{U \downarrow B} \frac{\Pr(X \in A, Y \in U)}{\Pr(Y \in U)}.$$

Consequently, we may find

- $\Pr(X_1)$ is a probability measure on \mathcal{S}_1 ,
- $\Pr(X_1, X_2)$ is a probability measure on $\mathcal{S}_1 \times \mathcal{S}_2$,
- $\Pr(X_2 \mid X_1)$ is a set of probability measures on \mathcal{S}_2 parametrized by \mathcal{F}_1 .

2. BAYESIAN NETWORKS

Definition 2.1 (Bayesian network). Let G be a directed acyclic graph.

The graph acts as a parameter space. We want to investigate mutual effects among the parametrized random variables.

Theorem 2.1 (Factorization of probability).

Example 2.2 (NBC, Naive Bayesian Classifier).

Example 2.3 (HMM, Hidden Markov Model).

3. MARKOV NETWORKS

Definition 3.1 (Markov network).

Markov networks are sometimes called MRF, Markov random field.

Example 3.1 (CRF, Conditional Random Field). Consider a network with a graph G such that vertices are divided into two classes.

4. NEURAL NETWORKS

Probabilistic graphical models provide effective explanations of the neural networks, but neural networks are not confined only to graphical models.

Definition 4.1 (Neural network). *Neural network* cannot be defined mathematically. It indicates statistical models that can solve problems with a collection of artificial neurons by adjusting connection strength among them.

Example 4.1 (MLP, Multi-layer Perceptron).

Example 4.2 (RNN, Recurrent Neural Network).