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Machine Learning

Lecture 10: Bayesian belief networks

Statistical independence

- The naïve Bayesian classifier assumed that all features are independent
- This allowed to compute the likelihood as a product of the individual feature likelihoods

$$P[x_1, \dots, x_n | \omega] = \prod_{i=1}^n P[x_i | \omega]$$

- In many applications this is not the case, which is why we called this assumption and hence the classifier “naïve”

Statistical independence

- For example we could observe two features:
 - If there is rain or not
 - If the grass is wet or not
- Now let's assume we determine it rains on half of all days
- We also observe that the grass is wet on half of all days
- Therefore, the probability of rain is 50% and the chance of the grass being wet is also 50%
- But does this mean that the chance of the grass being wet and there to be rain at the same time is $50\% \times 50\% = 25\%$?
- Obviously not, because these two observations are not independent of each other
- We cannot simply multiply probabilities of two correlated variables to obtain the joint probability of the two variables

Conditional independence

- One solution to this issue is Bayesian belief networks, which are based on the notion of **conditional independence**

- Assume the two variables x_1 and x_2 are correlated, i.e. we cannot multiply them as we did in the naïve classifier

$$P[x_1, x_2] \neq P[x_1]P[x_2]$$

- Sometimes we can identify a third variable y that makes the two variables x_1 and x_2 conditional independent, i.e.

$$P[x_1, x_2 | y] = P[x_1 | y]P[x_2 | y]$$

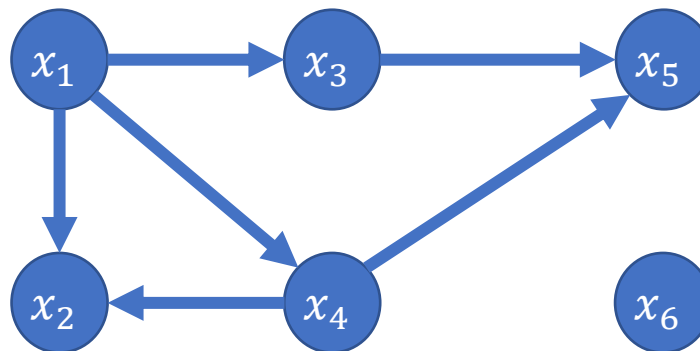
- For example consider the observation of the following three events

x_1	Rain
x_2	Thunder
y	Lightning

- Obviously rain and thunder are not in general independent
- However, as soon as we definitely know that a lightning strike occurred the probabilities of rain and thunder become independent
- While the fact that it was raining contains some information about thunder, that information is subsumed by the information about lightning

Conditional independence

- The information about what variables are conditional independent is domain knowledge we can add to our classifier
- To enable the description of the probabilistic structure of a problem domain we can use graphical models to represent the mutual relationships between the variables
- A **Bayesian network** is a directed acyclic graph that helps us factorise the joint probability distribution of a problem domain

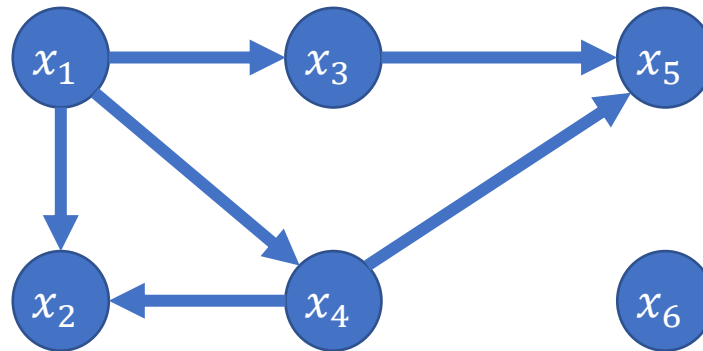


- Each vertex represents a variable, each edge represents a dependence

Bayesian network

- The structure of the network encodes the knowledge that each node is conditionally independent given all its parent nodes
- It is a graphical notation to describe the structure of the joint probability distribution based on the structure of the graph

$$P[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6] = P[x_1]P[x_2|x_1, x_4]P[x_3|x_1]P[x_4|x_1]P[x_5|x_3, x_4]P[x_6]$$

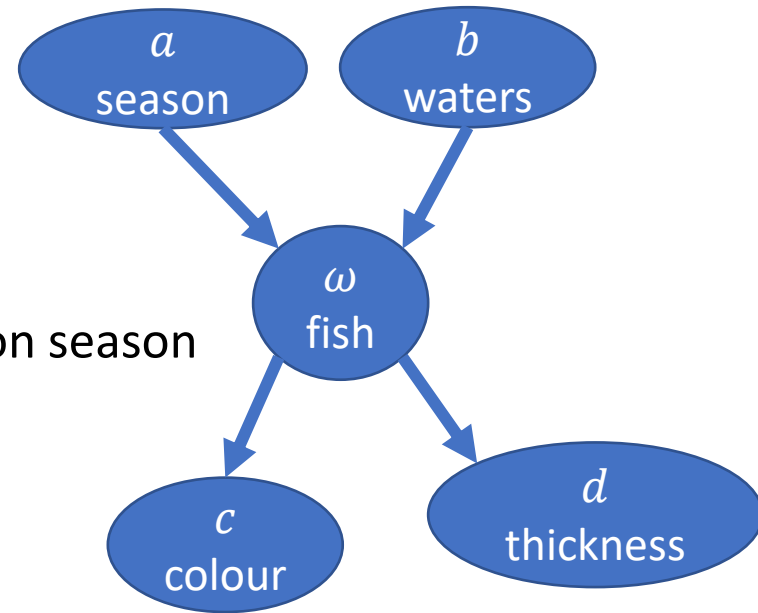


- Note, that the naïve Bayesian classifier relied on the assumption that there are no edges (i.e. dependencies) between the variables



Example: Fish

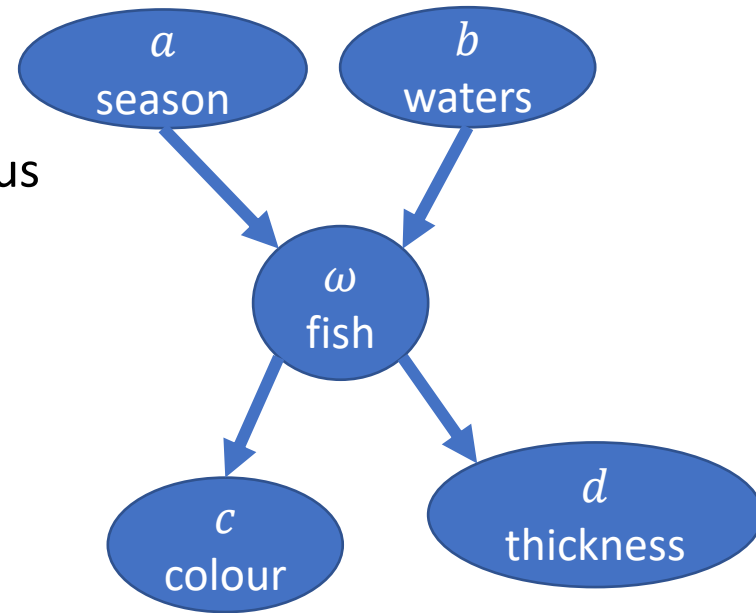
- Let's assume we want to distinguish
 - ω_1 : salmon
 - ω_2 : sea bass
- We know that the fish population depends on season
 - a_1 : winter
 - a_2 : spring
 - a_3 : summer
 - a_4 : autumn
- as well as the fishing waters
 - b_1 : north
 - b_2 : south
- The colouring of the fish depends on the type of fish
 - c_1 : light
 - c_2 : medium
 - c_3 : dark
- As does its thickness
 - d_1 : wide
 - d_2 : thin



Example: Fish

- A fishing expert (or learning algorithm) tells us that the conditional probabilities of catching a fish depending on the season is

$P[\omega a]$	Salmon	Sea bass
Winter	.9	.1
Spring	.3	.7
Summer	.4	.6
Autumn	.8	.2



- And that the probabilities of catching a fish depending on the waters is

$P[\omega b]$	Salmon	Sea bass
North	.65	.35
South	.25	.75

- Note, that the conditional probabilities add up to 1 in each row

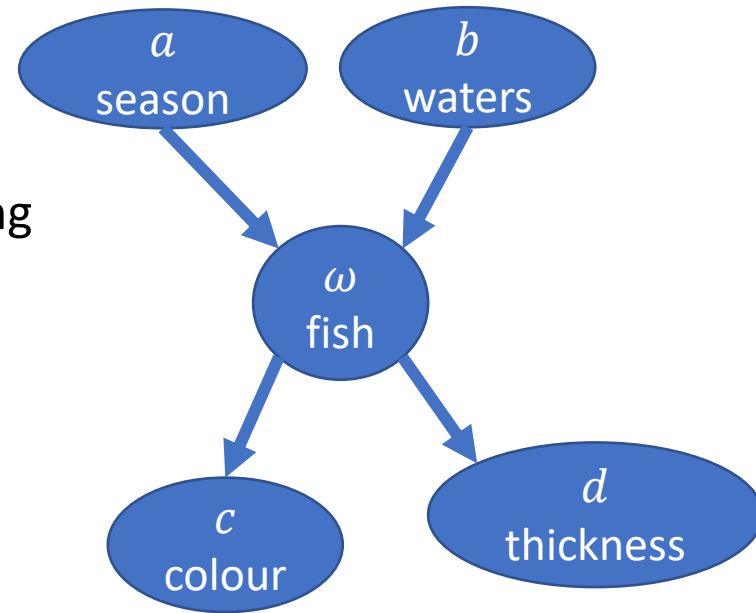
Example: Fish

- Further to that the fishing expert (or learning algorithm) determines that colours are distributed as follows

$P[c \omega]$	Light	Medium	Dark
Salmon	.33	.33	.34
Sea bass	.8	.1	.1

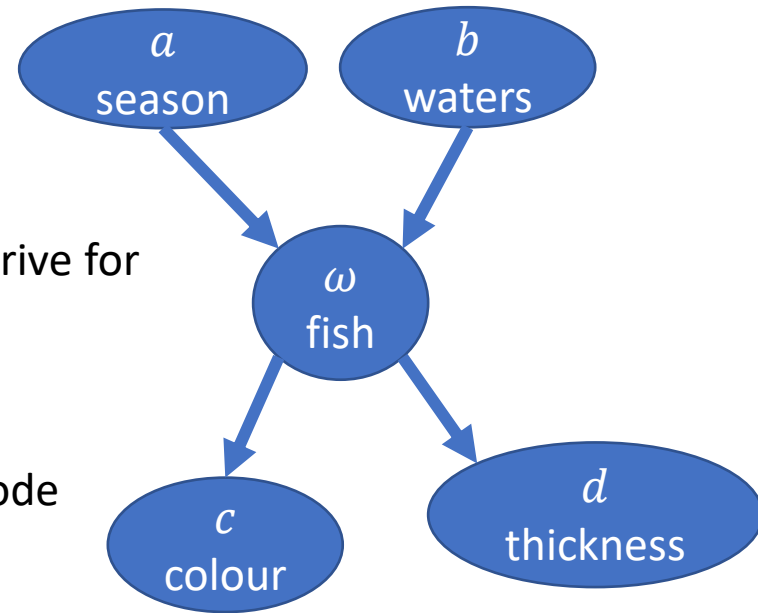
- And that the thickness is distributed as

$P[d \omega]$	wide	thin
Salmon	.4	.6
Sea bass	.95	.05



Example: Fish

- The structure of the problem domain is visualised in the graphical representation, which is easy to derive for a domain expert
- It can be translated into a probabilistic model by multiplying one conditional probability term per node
- Each conditional probability term represents the probability of the variable having a value, given that its immediate predecessors are known
- The resulting joint probability of all variables for the example is then



$$P[\omega, a, b, c, d] = P[a]P[b]P[c|\omega]P[d|\omega]P[\omega|a, b]$$

- The reason why we can use this simplified product is the additional structural domain knowledge we put in exploiting conditional independences between variables
- The model can still be more complex than the naïve Bayesian model where everything is independent

Example: Fish

$$P[\omega, a, b, c, d] = P[a]P[b]P[c|\omega]P[d|\omega]P[\omega|a, b]$$

- Case 1: we do not have any additional information
- Then the probability of catching salmon is

$$\begin{aligned} P[\omega_1] &= \sum_{i,j,k,l} P[\omega_1, a_i, b_j, c_k, d_l] \\ &= \sum_{i,j,k,l} P[a_i]P[b_j]P[c_k|\omega_1]P[d_l|\omega_1]P[\omega_1|a_i, b_j] \end{aligned}$$

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There are 4 seasons and 2 potential fishing waters

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$$P[\omega, a, b, c, d] = P[a]P[b]P[c|\omega]P[d|\omega]P[\omega|a, b]$$

- Case 2: we know it is winter
- Then the probability of catching salmon is

$$P[\omega_1] = \sum_{i,j,k,l} P[\omega_1, a_i, b_j, c_k, d_l]$$

$P[\omega a]$	Salmon	Sea bass
Winter	.9	.1
Spring	.3	.7
Summer	.4	.6
Autumn	.8	.2

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North	.65	.35
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 &= (.5) \left(\frac{(.9)(.65)}{(.9)(.65) + (.1)(.35)} + \frac{(.9)(.25)}{(.9)(.25) + (.1)(.75)} \right) = .85
 \end{aligned}$$

We only sum over the winter terms now

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$$P[\omega, a, b, c, d] = P[a]P[b]P[c|\omega]P[d|\omega]P[\omega|a, b]$$

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$$P[\omega_1|d_2] = \frac{P[\omega_1, d_2]}{P[d_2]}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{i,j,k} P[\omega_1, a_i, b_j, c_k, d_2]}{P[d_2]}$$

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winter

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winter

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- To determine $P[d_2]$ we do the same for the sea bass

$$P[\omega_2|d_2] = \frac{P[\omega_2, d_2]}{P[d_2]}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{i,j,k} P[\omega_2, a_i, b_j, c_k, d_2]}{P[d_2]}$$

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 &= \frac{\sum_j \frac{1}{2} P[d_2|\omega_2]P[\omega_2|a_1, b_j]}{P[d_2]} \\
 &= (.5)(.05) \left(\frac{(.1)(.35)}{(.9)(.65) + (.1)(.35)} + \frac{(.1)(.75)}{(.9)(.25) + (.1)(.75)} \right) / P[d_2] = .008 / P[d_2]
 \end{aligned}$$

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 &= \frac{\sum_j \frac{1}{2} P[d_2|\omega_2]P[\omega_2|a_1, b_j]}{P[d_2]} \\
 &= (.5)(.05) \left(\frac{(.1)(.35)}{(.9)(.65) + (.1)(.35)} + \frac{(.1)(.75)}{(.9)(.25) + (.1)(.75)} \right) / P[d_2] = .008 / P[d_2]
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$$\begin{aligned} P[\omega_2|d_2] &= \frac{P[\omega_2, d_2]}{P[d_2]} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i,j,k} P[\omega_2, a_i, b_j, c_k, d_2]}{P[d_2]} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i,j,k} P[a_i]P[b_j]P[c_k|\omega_2]P[d_2|\omega_2]P[\omega_2|a_i, b_j]}{P[d_2]} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i,j} P[a_i]P[b_j]P[d_2|\omega_2]P[\omega_2|a_i, b_j]}{P[d_2]} \\ &= \frac{\sum_j \frac{1}{2} P[d_2|\omega_2]P[\omega_2|a_1, b_j]}{P[d_2]} \\ &= (.5)(.05) \left(\frac{(.1)(.35)}{(.9)(.65) + (.1)(.35)} + \frac{(.1)(.75)}{(.9)(.25) + (.1)(.75)} \right) / P[d_2] = .008 / P[d_2] \end{aligned}$$

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- Case 3: we know it is winter and that the fish we caught is thin
- We now determined the two probabilities up to $P[d_2]$

$$P[\omega_1|d_2] = \frac{.51}{P[d_2]}$$

$$P[\omega_2|d_2] = \frac{.008}{P[d_2]}$$

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- We now determined the two probabilities up to $P[d_2]$

$$P[\omega_1|d_2] = \frac{.51}{P[d_2]}$$

$$P[\omega_2|d_2] = \frac{.008}{P[d_2]}$$

- We also know that they normalise as follows:

$$P[\omega_1|d_2] + P[\omega_2|d_2] = 1$$

- We can now determine that $P[d_2] = .51 + .008$ to normalise the probabilities
- Finally, the probability of having caught a salmon in case the fish is thin and was caught in winter is

$$P[\omega_1|d_2] = \frac{.51}{.51 + .008} = .99$$

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Summary

- Bayesian believe networks allow to graphically capture the structure of a problem domain by identifying mutual dependences/independences
- The graphical representation translates into a joint probability function, which can be efficiently computed in case most variables are conditionally independent
- Additional knowledge (sometimes called evidence) can be added bit by bit to refine the results
- This also allows to substitute missing values using the input derived from the domain knowledge, both on the structure as well as on conditional dependences

Thank you for your attention