

The VE Algorithm

Given a Bayes Net with CPTs F , query variable Q , evidence variables \mathbf{E} (observed to have values e), and remaining variables \mathbf{Z} . Compute $\Pr(Q|\mathbf{E})$

- ① Replace each factor $f \in F$ that mentions a variable(s) in \mathbf{E} with its restriction $f_{\mathbf{E}=e}$ (this might yield a “constant” factor)
- ② For each Z_j — in the order given —eliminate $Z_j \in \mathbf{Z}$ as follows:
 - ① Let f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k be the factors in F that include Z_j
 - ② Compute new factor $g_j = \sum_{Z_j} f_1 \times f_2 \times \dots \times f_k$
 - ③ Remove the factors f_i from F and add new factor g_j to F
- ③ The remaining factors refer only to the query variable Q . Take their product and normalize to produce $\Pr(Q|\mathbf{E})$.