

ROB311 Quiz 2

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Probabilistic Inference Problems

1 Bayesian Networks

Definition: Vertices represent random variables and edges represent dependencies between variables.

1.1 Junction

Definition: A **junction** \mathcal{J} consists of three vertices, X_1 , X_2 , and X_3 , connected by two edges, e_1 and e_2 :



Figure 1

- X_1 and X_2 are not independent, X_2 and X_3 are not independent, but when is X_1 and X_3 independent?

1.1.1 Causal Chain

Definition: A causal chain is a junction \mathcal{J} s.t.



Figure 2

- X_1 and X_3 are not independent (unconditionally), but are independent given X_2 .

Notes:

- **Analogy:** Given X_2 , X_1 and X_3 are independent. Why? X_2 's door closes when you know X_2 , so X_1 and X_3 are independent.
- **Distinction b/w Causal and Dependence:** X_1 and X_2 are dependent. However, from a causal perspective, X_1 is influencing X_2 (i.e. $X_1 \rightarrow X_2$).

Warning: X_1 is influencing X_2 and X_2 is influencing X_3 .

1.1.2 Common Cause

Definition: A common cause is a junction \mathcal{J} s.t.



Figure 3

- X_1 and X_3 are not independent (unconditionally), but are independent given X_2 .

Notes:

- **Analogy:** Given X_2 , X_1 and X_3 are independent. Why? Consider the following example:
 - Let X_2 represent whether a person smokes or not, X_1 represent whether they have yellow teeth, X_3 represent whether they have lung cancer.
- Without knowing X_2 , observing X_1 provides information about X_3 because yellow teeth are associated with smoking, which in turn increases the likelihood of lung cancer.
- If X_2 is known, then knowing whether a person has yellow teeth provides no additional information about whether they have lung cancer beyond what is already known from smoking status.

1.1.3 Common Effect

Definition: A common effect is a junction \mathcal{J} s.t.



Figure 4

- X_1 and X_3 are independent (unconditionally), but are not independent given X_2 or any of X_2 's descendants.

Notes:

- **Analogy:** Consider the following example:
 - Let X_2 represent whether the grass is wet, X_1 represent whether it rained, X_3 represent whether the sprinkler was on.
- Without knowing whether the grass is wet (X_2), the occurrence of rain (X_1) and the sprinkler being on (X_3) are independent events. The rain may occur regardless of the sprinkler, and vice versa.
- However, once we observe that the grass is wet (X_2), the two events become dependent:
 - If we learn that the sprinkler was not on, then the wet grass must have been caused by rain.
 - If we learn that it did not rain, then the wet grass must have been caused by the sprinkler.

1.2 Dependence Separation

1.2.1 Blocked

Definition: $\mathcal{J} = (\{X_1, X_2, X_3\}, \{e_1, e_2\})$ is **blocked** given $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ if X_1 and X_3 are independent given \mathcal{K} .

1.2.2 Blocked Undirected Path

Definition: An undirected path,

$$p = \langle (X_1, e_1, X_2), \dots, (X_{|p|-1}, e_{|p|-1, |p|}, X_{|p|}) \rangle,$$

is **blocked** given $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ if any of its junctions,

$$\mathcal{J}^{(n)} = \{(X_{n-1}, X_n, X_{n+1}), (e_{n-1}, e_n)\},$$

is blocked given \mathcal{K} .

1.2.3 Independence

Theorem: Any two variables, X_1 and X_2 , in a Bayesian network, $\mathcal{B} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$, are independent given $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$ if every undirected path is blocked.

Example:

1. **Given:** Caveman is deciding whether to go hunt for meat. He must take into account several factors:

- Weather
- Possibility of over-exertion
- Possibility encountering lion

These factors can result in Cavemen's death. His decision will ultimately depend on the **chances** of his death.

2. **Binary Variables:**

- $W = \{\text{Sun, Rainy}\}$: Weather
- H : Whether the Cavemen goes hunting or not.
- L : Whether the Cavemen encounters a lion or not.
- T : Whether the Cavemen is tired or not.
- D : Whether the Cavemen dies or not

3. **Problem:** Cavemen must decide whether to go hunting or not.

- He must consider the conditional probabilities (i.e. dependence) of each event.

Warning: Have to be discrete.

Example:

1. **Given:** Bayesian network.

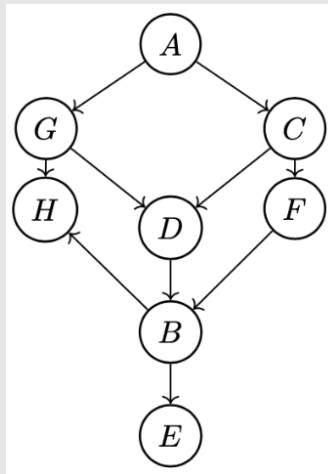


Figure 5

2. **Problem:** A and E are
 - independent if $\mathcal{K} =$
 - not necessarily independent for $\mathcal{K} =$

Process:

- 1.

Example: Bayesian Inference

1. **Given:**
2. **Problem:**

Process:

1. **Given:**

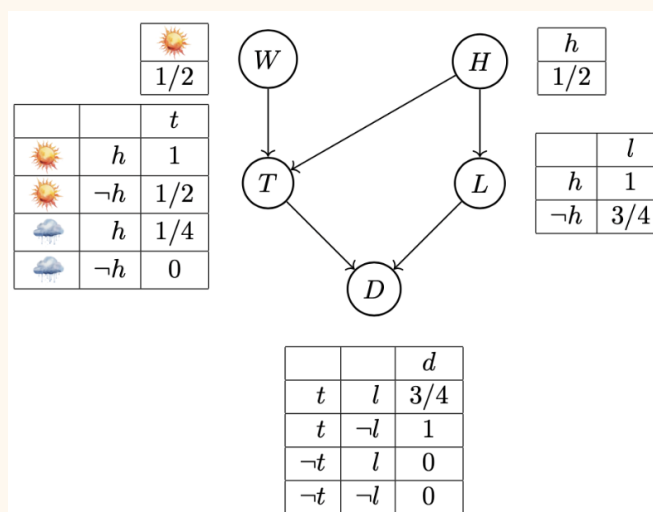


Figure 6

Example: Inference via Sampling

1. **Given:**
2. **Problem:**