

# Fundamentals of AI and KR - Module 3

## 4. Exact inference

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# Notice

## Credits

The present slides are largely an adaptation of existing material, including:

- slides from [Russel & Norvig](#)
- slides by [Daphne Koller](#) on Probabilistic Graphical Models
- slides by Fabrizio Riguzzi on [Data Mining and Analytics](#)

I am especially grateful to these authors.

## Downloading and sharing

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# Exact inference



# Inference tasks

query variable

- Simple queries: compute posterior marginal  $P(X_i | E = e)$   
e.g.,  $P(\text{NoGas Gauge} = \text{empty}, \text{Lights} = \text{on}, \text{Starts} = \text{false})$
- Conjunctive queries:  $P(X_i, X_j | E = e) = P(X_i | E = e)P(X_j | X_i, E = e)$
- Optimal decisions: decision networks include utility information; probabilistic inference required for  $P(\text{outcome} | \text{action}, \text{evidence})$
- Value of information: which evidence to seek next?
- Sensitivity analysis: which probability values are most critical?
- Explanation: why do I need a new starter motor?



# Inference by enumeration

Slightly intelligent way to sum out variables from the joint without actually constructing its explicit representation

Simple query on the burglary network:

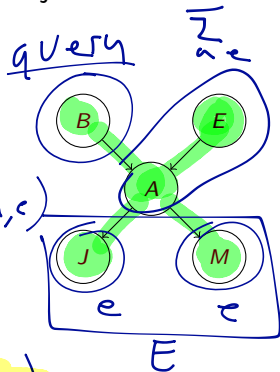
$P(B|j, m)$

$$\rightarrow = \alpha P(B, j, m) = \sum_a \sum_e P(B, j, m, a, e)$$

$$= \alpha \sum_a \sum_e P(B) P(a|B, e)$$

$$P(e) P(j|a) P(m|a)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \swarrow a, e \\ \boxed{P(a, j, m|e)} \\ \swarrow j, a, e \\ \swarrow j, a, e \end{matrix} \rightarrow P(B) P(a|B, \underline{j, m, e}) P(e) P(j|a) P(m|a)$$



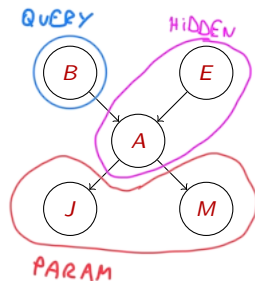


# Inference by enumeration

Slightly intelligent way to sum out variables from the joint without actually constructing its explicit representation

Simple query on the burglary network:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbf{P}(B|j, m) \\
 &= \mathbf{P}(B, j, m) / P(j, m) \\
 &= \alpha \mathbf{P}(B, j, m) \\
 &= \alpha \underbrace{\sum_e \sum_a}_{\text{hidden variables } e, a} \mathbf{P}(B, e, a, j, m)
 \end{aligned}$$



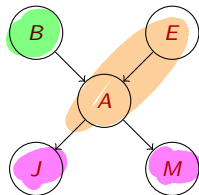


# Inference by enumeration

Slightly intelligent way to sum out variables from the joint without actually constructing its explicit representation

Simple query on the burglary network:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbf{P}(B|j, m) \\
 &= \mathbf{P}(B, j, m) / P(j, m) \\
 &= \alpha \mathbf{P}(B, j, m) \\
 &= \alpha \sum_e \sum_a \mathbf{P}(B, e, a, j, m)
 \end{aligned}$$



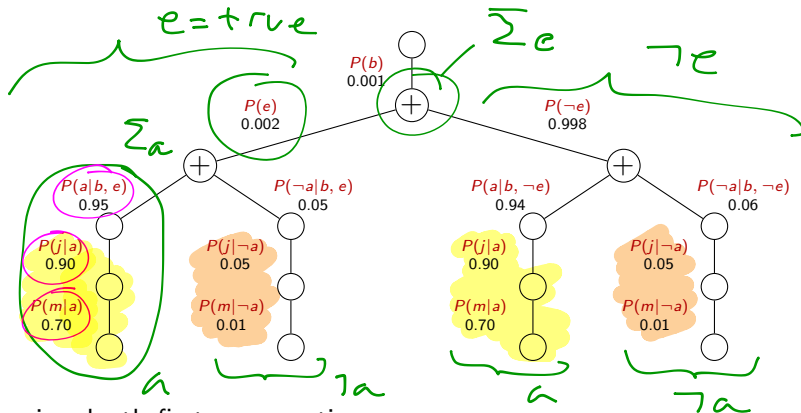
Rewrite full joint entries using product of CPT entries:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{P}(B|j, m) &= \alpha \sum_e \sum_a \mathbf{P}(B) \mathbf{P}(e) \mathbf{P}(a|B, e) \mathbf{P}(j|a) \mathbf{P}(m|a) \\
 &= \alpha \mathbf{P}(B) \sum_e \mathbf{P}(e) \sum_a \mathbf{P}(a|B, e) \mathbf{P}(j|a) \mathbf{P}(m|a)
 \end{aligned}$$





# Evaluation tree



Recursive depth-first enumeration

$O(n)$  space (no need to construct full joint),  $O(d^n)$  time

Inefficient: repeated computation (e.g., see  $P(j|a)P(m|a)$ )



# Enumeration algorithm

**function** ENUMERATION-ASK( $X, e, bn$ ) **returns** a distribution over  $X$   
**inputs:**  $X$ , the query variable  
 $e$ , observed values for variables  $\mathbf{E}$   
 $bn$ , a Bayesian network with variables  $\text{VARS}[bn] = \{X\} \cup \mathbf{E} \cup \mathbf{Y}$   
 $Q(X) \leftarrow$  a distribution over  $X$ , initially empty  
**for each** value  $x_i$  of  $X$  **do**  
    extend  $e$  with  $X = x_i$   
     $Q(x_i) \leftarrow$  ENUMERATE-ALL( $\text{VARS}[bn], e$ )  
**return** NORMALIZE( $Q(X)$ )

**function** ENUMERATE-ALL( $vars, e$ ) **returns** a real number  
**if** EMPTY?( $vars$ ) **then return** 1.0  
 $Y \leftarrow$  FIRST( $vars$ )  
**if**  $Y$  has value  $y$  in  $e$  **then**  
    **return**  $P(y | \text{Parents}(Y)) \times \text{ENUMERATE-ALL}(\text{REST}(vars), e)$   
**else return**  $\sum_y P(y | \text{Parents}(Y)) \times \text{ENUMERATE-ALL}(\text{REST}(vars), e \cup \{Y = y\})$



# Inference by variable elimination

Variable elimination: carry out summations right-to-left, storing intermediate results (**factors**) to avoid recomputation

$$P(B, j, m) = \alpha \underbrace{P(B)}_B \sum_e \underbrace{P(e)}_E \sum_a \underbrace{P(a|B, e)}_A \underbrace{P(j|a)}_J \underbrace{P(m|a)}_M$$

Handwritten annotations below the equation:

- Arrows pointing down from the summation variables  $a$  and  $e$  to the factor definitions.
- Handwritten factor definitions:  $f_1(a, B, e)$ ,  $f_2(j, a)$ ,  $f_3(m, a)$ .
- Red circles around  $j$  and  $m$  in the original equation.
- A pink box around the summation over  $a$ .

Handwritten table showing intermediate factors:

$a$	$e$	Factor
T	T	$.95 \times .9 \times .7$
T	F	
F	T	
F	F	$.71 \times .05 \times .01$

Handwritten notes:  $f_1$  is circled in pink. The table has colored rows: yellow, green, green, orange.

$P(B)$
0.001

$P(E)$
.002

$B$	$E$	$P(A B, E)$
T	T	.95
T	F	.94
F	T	.29
F	F	.001

Handwritten notes: A pink box highlights the last two rows. A red circle highlights the header. A pink arrow points from the pink box to the next table.

$A$	$P(J A)$
T	.90
F	.05

Handwritten notes: A pink arrow points from the pink box in the previous table to this one. A pink circle highlights the value .90. A pink arrow points from the pink circle to the next table.

$A$	$P(M A)$
T	.70
F	.01

Handwritten notes: A red circle highlights the header. A red arrow points from the pink circle in the previous table to this one. A red arrow points from the red circle to the next table.

# REDO THE EXERCISE

$$P(B|\neg, m) = \alpha P(B) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a P(a|B, e) \cdot P(\neg|a) \cdot P(m|a) =$$

$$= f_1(a, B, e) \cdot f_2(\neg, a) \cdot f_3(m, a) \quad \text{NOT VARIABLES}$$

↓ MORE CONVENIENT FORMULA

	$b$	$\neg b$
$a, e$	$0.95 \times 0.9 \times 0.7$	
$a, \neg e$		
$\neg a, e$		$(1-0.9) \times 0.05 \times 0.01$
$\neg a, \neg e$		

$$P(\neg A | \neg B, E) = 1 - P(A | \neg B, E)$$



# Inference by variable elimination

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline X & Y \\ \hline \end{array}} \rightarrow P(B|j,m) = \left\langle \frac{X}{X+Y}, \frac{Y}{X+Y} \right\rangle$$

Variable elimination: carry out summations right-to-left, storing intermediate results (**factors**) to avoid recomputation

$$\begin{aligned} P(B|j,m) &= \alpha \underbrace{P(B)}_B \sum_e \underbrace{P(e)}_E \sum_a \underbrace{P(a|B,e)}_A \underbrace{P(j|a)}_J \underbrace{P(m|a)}_M \\ &= \alpha P(B) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a P(a|B,e) P(j|a) f_M(a) \\ &= \alpha P(B) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a P(a|B,e) f_J(a) f_M(a) \\ &= \alpha P(B) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a f_A(a,b,e) f_J(a) f_M(a) \\ &= \alpha P(B) \sum_e P(e) f_{\bar{A}JM}(b,e) \text{ (sum out } A) \\ &= \alpha P(B) f_{\bar{E}\bar{A}JM}(b) \text{ (sum out } E) \\ &= \alpha f_B(b) \times f_{\bar{E}\bar{A}JM}(b) \end{aligned}$$

$P(B)$
0.001

$P(E)$
.002

$B$	$E$	$P(A B,E)$
T	T	.95
T	F	.94
F	T	.29
F	F	.001

$A$	$P(J A)$
T	.90
F	.05

$A$	$P(M A)$
T	.70
F	.01

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}} \leftarrow 1 \times \boxed{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} e \quad 7e \\ \boxed{.004} \mid \boxed{.998} \end{array} \xrightarrow{e} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{green} & \text{yellow} \\ \hline \text{orange} & \text{blue} \\ \hline \end{array}$$



# Variable elimination: Basic operations

A	P(J A)
T	.90
F	.05

A	P(M A)
T	.70
F	.01

B	E	P(A B, E)
T	T	.95
T	F	.94
F	T	.29
F	F	.001

Pointwise product of factors  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ :

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_j, y_1, \dots, y_k) \times f_2(y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_l)$$

$$= f(x_1, \dots, x_j, y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_l)$$

$$\text{E.g., } f_1(a, b) \times f_2(b, c) = f(a, b, c)$$



# Variable elimination: Basic operations

A	P(J A)
T	.90
F	.05

A	P(M A)
T	.70
F	.01

B	E	P(A B, E)
T	T	.95
T	F	.94
F	T	.29
F	F	.001

Pointwise product of factors  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ :

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_j, y_1, \dots, y_k) \times f_2(y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_l) \\ = f(x_1, \dots, x_j, y_1, \dots, y_k, z_1, \dots, z_l)$$

$$\text{E.g., } f_1(a, b) \times f_2(b, c) = f(a, b, c)$$

Summing out a variable from a product of factors:

- 1 move any constant factors outside the summation
- 2 add up submatrices in pointwise product of remaining factors

$$\sum_x f_1 \times \dots \times f_k \\ = f_1 \times \dots \times f_i \sum_x f_{i+1} \times \dots \times f_k \\ = f_1 \times \dots \times f_i \times f_{\bar{X}}$$

assuming  $f_1, \dots, f_i$  do not depend on  $X$



# Variable elimination algorithm

```
function ELIMINATION-ASK( $X, e, bn$ ) returns a distribution over  $X$   
  inputs:  $X$ , the query variable  
            $e$ , evidence specified as an event  
            $bn$ , a Bayesian network specifying joint distribution  $P(X_1, \dots, X_n)$   
   $factors \leftarrow []$   
  for each  $var$  in ORDER(VARS[ $bn$ ]) do  
     $factors \leftarrow [MAKE-FACTOR(var, e) | factors]$   
    if  $var$  is a hidden variable then  
       $factors \leftarrow SUM-OUT(var, factors)$   
  return NORMALIZE(POINTWISE-PRODUCT( $factors$ ))
```

ORDER(VARS[ $bn$ ])  $\rightarrow$  every ordering yields a valid algorithm  
Try to minimize size of next factor to be constructed





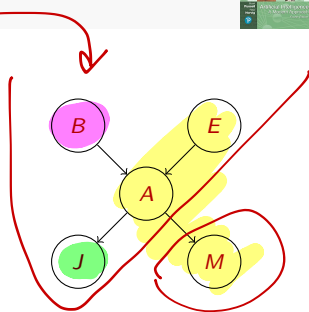
# Irrelevant variables

→  $\notin$  ancestral tree  
→ d-separated

Consider the query

$P(\text{JohnCalls} | \text{Burglary} = \text{true})$

$$P(J|b) = \alpha P(b) \sum_e P(e) \sum_a P(a|b, e) P(J|a) \frac{\sum_m P(m|a)}{\sum_m P(m|a)} = 1$$



Sum over  $m$  is identically 1;  $M$  is irrelevant to the query

Theorem

$Y$  is irrelevant unless  $Y \in \text{Ancestors}(\{X\} \cup \mathbf{E})$

$M$  IS NEITHER ANCESTOR OF  $J$ , NEITHER ANCESTOR OF  $B$   
QUERY VARIABLE EVIDENCE VARIABLE

Here,  $X = \text{JohnCalls}$ ,  $\mathbf{E} = \{\text{Burglary}\}$ , and

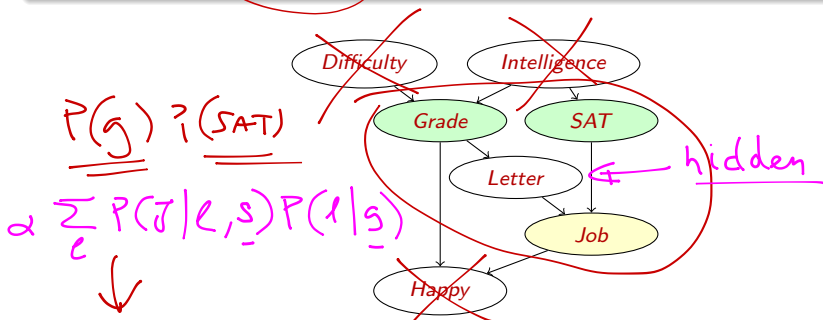
$\text{Ancestors}(\{X\} \cup \mathbf{E}) = \{\text{Alarm}, \text{Earthquake}\}$  so  $\text{MaryCalls}$  is irrelevant

# Irrelevant variables

NO ACTIVE TRAIL BETWEEN ANY VALUES OF  $X$  AND  $Y$ , GIVEN  $E$

## Theorem

$Y$  is irrelevant if d-separated from  $X$  by  $E$



For  $P(\text{Job} | \text{Grade}, \text{SAT})$ , not only  $\text{Happy}$  is irrelevant (outside of ancestral graph) but also  $\text{Difficulty}$  and  $\text{Intelligence}$  are (d-separated)

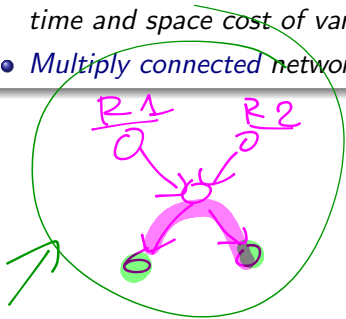


# Complexity of exact inference

vs. approximate inference (sampling)

Theorem (Complexity results for variable elimination)

- *Singly connected networks (or polytrees)*:  
any two nodes are connected by at most one (undirected) path  
time and space cost of variable elimination are  $O(d^k n)$
- *Multiply connected networks*: NP-hard





# Clustering algorithms

- Variable elimination OK for solving individual queries
- However, cost of estimating posterior probabilities for  $n$  variables in a polytree is  $O(n^2)$
- **Clustering algorithms** (join tree algorithms) can do that in  $O(n)$ : used in commercial systems
- Idea is to join individual nodes to form cluster nodes (meganodes), obtaining a polytree
- Worst case still requires exponentially large CPTs
- Alternative approach: approximate methods

# Exercise



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

You are designing a new e-commerce system, to sell products online. You can display advertisements (“ads”) of three types: book ads, toy ads, and holiday ads. However, your web site can only display one ad at a time. Your system should guess which type of ad has a higher chance of being clicked.

You don’t have verified profile information on each customer. You can, however, guess at least some profile features, based on your domain knowledge and on your observations about which ads the customer does or doesn’t click on (“clicking behaviour”).

In particular, you have identified the following **profile features**:

- **Young**: is this a young customer ( $y, \neg y$ );
- **Married**: is the customer married ( $m, \neg m$ );
- **Wealthy**: is the customer wealthy ( $w, \neg w$ );
- **Children**: does the customer have children ( $c, \neg c$ ).

The customer’s **clicking behaviour** is instead determined as follows:

- **Holiday**: the customer clicks on a holiday ad ( $h, \neg h$ );
- **Book**: the customer clicks on a book ad ( $b, \neg b$ );
- **Toy**: the customer clicks on a toy ad ( $t, \neg t$ ).

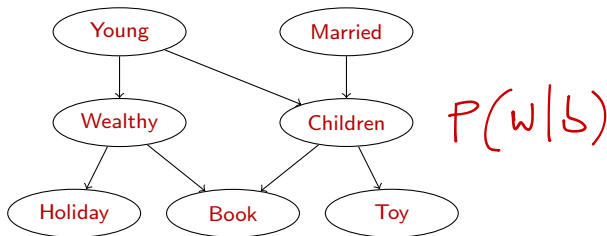


How would you model this domain using a Bayes net?



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your network:



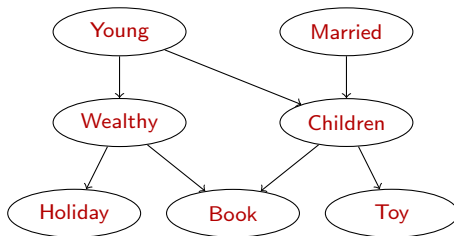
- Q1: You first display a sequence of ads and record which types of ads get clicked; then, you use that data to infer some of the customer's profile features.

- Which reasoning pattern are you following?
- Show a query that uses the customer's observed clicking behaviour as evidence.



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your network:



- Q2: To fully define this Bayesian network, how many independent values are needed?
- Q3: Define a CPD for *Children*

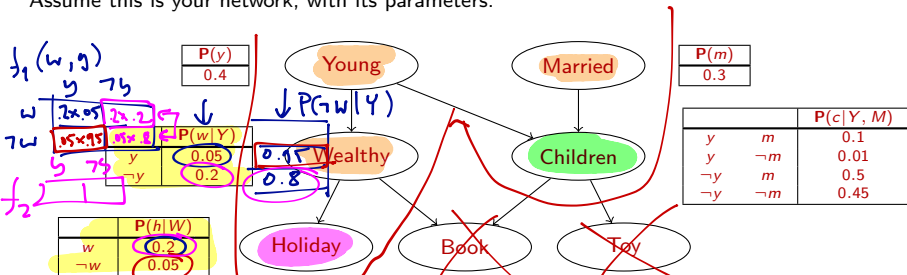
Q2  $1 + 1 + 2 + \dots$





# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your network, with its parameters:



- Q4: Calculate  $P(c|h)$  using variable elimination.

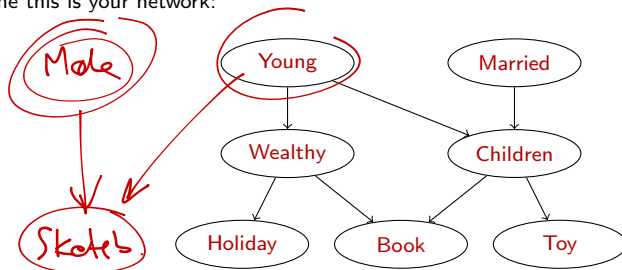
$$P(C|h) = \alpha \sum_y \sum_m \sum_w P(h|w) P(w|y) P(h) P(C|y, m) P(y)$$

$$= \alpha \sum_y P(y) \sum_m P(m) P(C|y, m) \underbrace{\sum_w P(h|w) P(w|y)}_{f_2}$$



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your network:



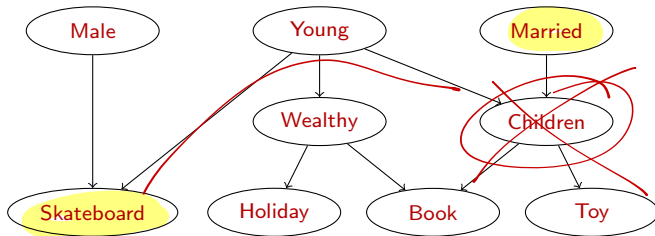
- Q5: You expand your business to sell *Skateboards*: an article that's especially popular with young male customers.

👉 How would you expand your Bayesian network to include also skateboard ads?



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your extended network:



- Q6: You display a skateboard ad, and observe that your customer doesn't click on it.



Can this observation alone help predict if your customer is married?

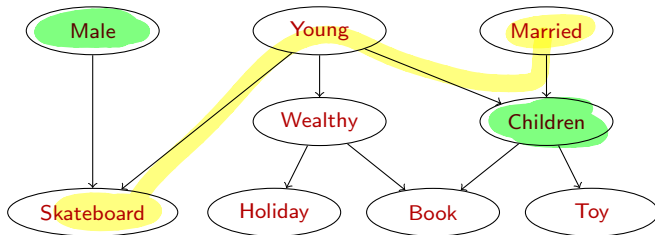
← no

$$P(M) \neq P(M|S) \Leftrightarrow P(M) \neq P(M|S)$$



# Exam-style exercise: online shop

Assume this is your extended network:



- Q7: The same customer joins a fidelity programme and fills in a form where she declares to be a female parent. She chooses not to disclose any other information about herself.  
 Given this new evidence, does her not clicking on a skateboard ad give you any information about her being married? yes

# Suggested exercise from Russel & Norvig, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.

- 14.21 (soccer teams), (a)-(d)

# Questions?