

# Gaussian BP

Introduction to Graphical Models and Inference for Communications

UC3M

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- One particular scenario: we want to perform inference over Gaussian probability distributions that factorize according to a graphical model
- Factor Graphs.
- Belief Propagation naturally extends to this scenario by replacing summations to integrals (*Gaussian Belief Propagation*).
- GaBP is exact for Gaussian tree factor graphs.
- GaBP computes the exact mean for graphs with cycles, but approximated covariance matrix.

- 1 Multivariate Gaussian distribution
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- 3 Gaussian Hidden Markov Models
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# Multivariate Gaussian distribution

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  be a Gaussian random vector ( $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ).

- **Covariance form:** the probability density function is

$$\mu(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}) \right\}$$

denoted as  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$  with mean  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]$  and covariance matrix  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m})(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m})^T]$ .

- **Natural form:** the probability density function is

$$\mu(\mathbf{x}) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{J} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{x} \right\}$$

denoted as  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{J})$  with potential vector  $\mathbf{h}$  and *precision matrix*  $\mathbf{J}$ .

- Note  $\mathbf{J} = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{J}\mathbf{m}$ .

Gaussian graphical models typically describe Gaussian joint probability density functions in **natural form**.

## Product of two Gaussians

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_a, \Sigma_a) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_b, \Sigma_b) \\ &= \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_a, \mathbf{J}_a) \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_b, \mathbf{J}_b) \\ &= \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_a + \mathbf{h}_b, \mathbf{J}_a + \mathbf{J}_b) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \Sigma) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Sigma = (\mathbf{J}_a + \mathbf{J}_b)^{-1} \quad \mathbf{m} = \Sigma(\mathbf{h}_a + \mathbf{h}_b)$$

## Marginalization via algebraic manipulation

- Let  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_x, \mathbf{\Sigma}_x) = \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_x, \mathbf{J}_x)$  and  $\mathbf{v} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_v, \mathbf{\Sigma}_v) = \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_v, \mathbf{J}_v)$ , then

$$\mu(\mathbf{y}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mu(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})\mu(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}?$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})\mu(\mathbf{x}) &\propto \exp \left\{ \frac{-1}{2} \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{y} + (\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{m}_v)^T \mathbf{y} + (\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{y} - \frac{-1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{J}_x \mathbf{x} + (\mathbf{J}_x \mathbf{m}_x)^T \mathbf{x} \right\} \\ &\propto \left\{ \frac{-1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix}^T \mathbf{J}_* \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{h}_*^T \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{x} \end{bmatrix} \right\}\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{J}_* = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{J}_v & -\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \\ -(\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T & \mathbf{J}_x \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{h}_* = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_v \\ \mathbf{h}_x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{J}_* = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{J}_x & -\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \\ -(\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T & \mathbf{J}_v \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{h}_* = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_v \\ \mathbf{h}_x \end{bmatrix}$$

Marginalization its easy if we obtain the covariance form of the joint distribution.  
Applying the matrix inversion lemma:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{J}_v & -\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \\ -(\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T & \mathbf{J}_x \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}^{-1} & \mathbf{S}^{-1} \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} \\ \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T \mathbf{S}^{-1} & \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} + \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T \mathbf{S}^{-1} \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{J}_v - \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \mathbf{J}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A})^T$ .

Therefore

$$p(\mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}^{-1}(\mathbf{h}_y, \mathbf{J}_y)$$

where

$$\mathbf{J}_y = \mathbf{J}_v - \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \Sigma_x \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{J}_v^T \quad \mathbf{h}_y = \mathbf{h}_v + \mathbf{J}_v \mathbf{A} \Sigma_x \mathbf{h}_x$$

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Let  $X_i \in \mathcal{X}$   $i = 1, \dots, 5$  be a collection of real R.V. with joint distribution of the form

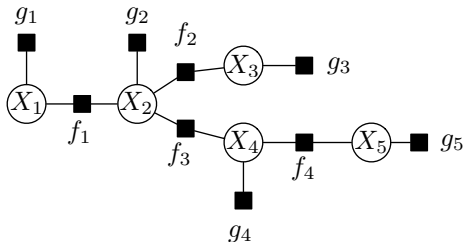
$$\mu(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} f_1(x_1, x_2) f_2(x_2, x_3) f_3(x_2, x_4) f_4(x_4, x_5) \prod_{i=1}^5 g(x_i)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x_1, x_2) &= \exp\{F_1 x_1 x_2\} & f_2(x_2, x_3) &= \exp\{F_2 x_2 x_3\} \\ f_3(x_2, x_4) &= \exp\{F_3 x_2 x_4\} & f_4(x_4, x_5) &= \exp\{F_4 x_4 x_5\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$g(x_i) = \exp\{b_i x_i - \frac{1}{2} \pi_i x_i^2\}$$



- $\mu(\mathbf{x})$  is a Gaussian distribution defined in natural form!

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_1 & -F_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -F_1 & \pi_2 & -F_2 & -F_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -F_2 & \pi_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -F_3 & 0 & \pi_4 & -F_4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -F_4 & \pi_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{h} = [b_1 \quad b_2 \quad b_3 \quad b_4 \quad b_5]^T$$

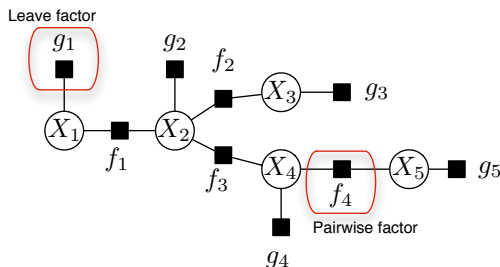
Computing the mean  $\mathbf{m}$  and covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  requires computing  $\Sigma = \mathbf{J}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{J}^{-1}\mathbf{h}$ .  $O(n^3)$  cost!

BP provides a way to exploit graph structure to perform this computation in  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  time instead of  $O(n^3)$ . It is only exact when the graph is a tree!

If the Gaussian graphical model has cycles, GBP still computes the exact  $\mathbf{m}$ , but only an estimation to  $\Sigma$ .

# Gaussian BP algorithm

- It is described as a *message-passing algorithm*.
- Messages represent *local computations* at each node of the graph.
- The FG has leave factors (only connected to one variable) and pairwise factors (connected to two variables).
- Integrals instead of sums. The rest of the algorithm remains unaltered.



## Iteration 0

- Messages send by variable nodes are initialized by their leave factors

E.g.

$$m_{x_2 \rightarrow f_2}^0(x_2) = g(x_2) = \exp\{b_2 x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \pi_2 x_2^2\} \sim \mathcal{N}^{-1}(b_2, \pi_2) \quad \text{Gaussian message!}$$

- Messages send by the  $f_j$  factors are computed as usual but replacing sums by integrals.

E.g.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{f_1 \rightarrow x_1}^0(x_1) &= \int \exp\{F_1 x_1 x_2\} \exp\{b_2 x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \pi_2 x_2^2\} dx_2 \\ &= \int \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -F_1 \\ -F_1 & \pi_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}\right\} dx_2 \\ &\sim \mathcal{N}^{-1}(F_1 \pi_2^{-1} b_2, F_1^2 \pi_2^{-1}) = \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{f_1 \rightarrow x_1}^0, J_{f_1 \rightarrow x_1}^0) \quad \text{Gaussian message!} \end{aligned}$$

- **Step 1:** Variable nodes multiply their incoming messages to send a new message to factors.

E.g.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell(x_2) &= \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{f_1 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}, J_{f_1 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}) \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{f_2 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}, J_{f_2 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}) \\ &= \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{f_1 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1} + h_{f_2 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}, J_{f_1 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1} + J_{f_2 \rightarrow x_2}^{\ell-1}) \\ &= \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell, J_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell). \end{aligned}$$

## At iteration $\ell$

- **Step 2:** Factor nodes compute the messages to variable nodes by marginalization.

E.g.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{f_3 \rightarrow x_4}^\ell(x_4) &= \int \exp\{F_3 x_2 x_4\} \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell, J_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell) dx_2 \\ &= \int \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -F_3 \\ -F_3 & J_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ h_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix}\right\} dx_2 \\ &\sim \mathcal{N}^{-1}\left(\frac{F_3 h_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell}{J_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell}, \frac{F_3^2}{J_{x_2 \rightarrow f_3}^\ell}\right) = \mathcal{N}^{-1}(h_{f_3 \rightarrow x_4}^\ell, J_{f_3 \rightarrow x_4}^\ell) \quad \text{Gaussian message!} \end{aligned}$$

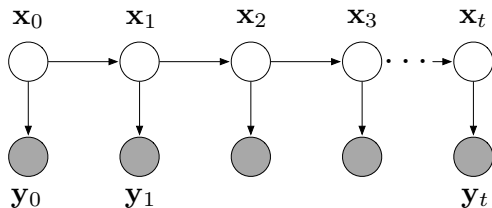
All messages are Gaussian! The parameters of the Gaussian messages are computed in closed form without doing any integral!

Convergence is guaranteed and achieved in a finite number  $\ell_*$  of iterations. The overall complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(\ell_* n)$ .

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# Gaussian Hidden Markov Models

- Wireless communication channels.
- Speech processing.
- Tracking applications.





# Gaussian Hidden Markov Models

- States  $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- State transition matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ .
- Process noise  $\mathbf{v}_t \in \mathbb{R}^p$  and  $\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_v)$  for some  $\Sigma_v \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ .
- Dynamic equations:

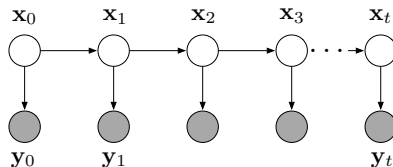
$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}_t$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_x^0)$$

- Noisy observation  $\mathbf{y}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d'}$ :

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{w}_t$$

where  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{d' \times d}$  and  $\mathbf{w}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_w)$ .



- In summary, for  $\Sigma_h = B\Sigma_v B^T$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_0 &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_x^0) \\ \mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{x}_t &\sim \mathcal{N}(A\mathbf{x}_t, \Sigma_h) \\ \mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{x}_t &\sim \mathcal{N}(C\mathbf{x}_t, \Sigma_w)\end{aligned}$$

- Factorization

$$\mu(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \mu(x_0)\mu(\mathbf{y}_0|x_0)\mu(\mathbf{x}_1|x_0)\mu(\mathbf{y}_1|x_1)\mu(\mathbf{x}_2|x_1)\mu(\mathbf{y}_2|x_2)\dots$$

- Gaussian graphical model with no cycles!! GaBP is exact and cheap!
- This factorization can be expanded as the product of leave factors and pairwise factors.

## Inference over Gaussian HMMs

### Forward/Backward algorithm

Given  $\mathbf{y}_0, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_L$ , use GaBP to compute the (Gaussian) marginal for each state  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_L$ .

### Kalman filter

Given the actual observation  $\mathbf{y}_t$  and the observations in the past  $\mathbf{y}_0, \mathbf{y}_2, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}$ , use GaBP to compute the mean of  $\mathbf{x}_t$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_t]$ .

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- So far, we have applied BP to discrete and Gaussian graphical models.
- In the Gaussian case, we can avoid integration by algebraic manipulation.
- The same update rules can be applied to any Graphical model. However, integrals of the form

$$\int_{\mathbf{x}_j \sim x_i} f_j(\mathbf{x}_j) \prod_{u \in \mathcal{N}(f_j)} m_{x_u \rightarrow f_j}(x_u) d(\mathbf{x}_j \sim x_i)$$

are intractable in general! we cannot solve the integrals!!

## Approximate message passing (APM)

Approximate BP messages by Gaussian distributions:

- Compressed sensing <http://people.ee.duke.edu/~lcarin/AMP1.pdf>
- Efficient multiuser detection in CDMA systems  
<http://arxiv.org/pdf/0810.1729.pdf>
- Communications over Fading ISI channels:  
<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=04907469>
- ...

## Alternatives

Instead of approximating the BP messages, construct directly a tractable Gaussian approximation to the joint pdf.

- Variational Inference and Mean Field.
- Expectation Propagation.