

Bayesian Network

What is Bayesian Statistics

Bayes' theorem is the basis of Bayesian statistics. It enables the user to update the probabilities of unobserved events. Consider that you have a prior probability for the unobserved event. A related event has occurred. Now you can update the prior probability to get the posterior probability of the event.

Bayesian inference found the data that already occurred, and not on the data that could have occurred but did not. Bayes' theorem finds the posterior density of parameters for a given data. It combines information about the parameters from prior density with the observed data.

Bayes' Theorem – A theorem of probability theory states by the **Reverend Thomas Bayes**. A new piece of evidence affects the way of understanding how the probability that a theory is true. We use it in a wide variety of contexts from marine biology to the development of “**Bayesian**” spam blockers for email systems.

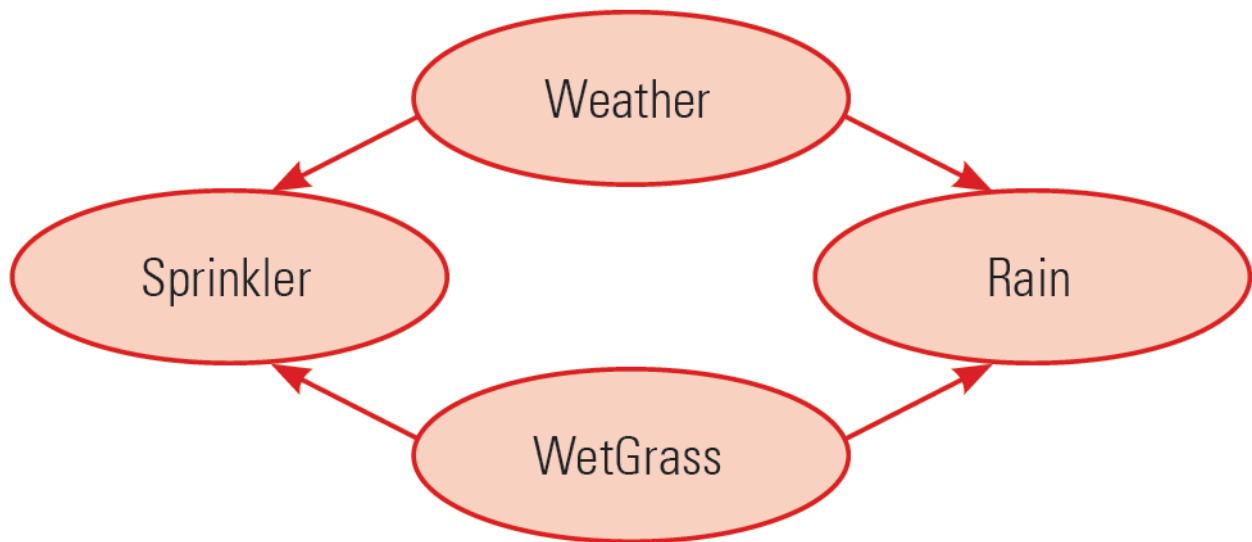
When applied, the probabilities involved in Bayes's theorem may have some probability interpretations. There is the use of the theorem as part of a particular approach to statistical inference.

What is Bayesian Network?

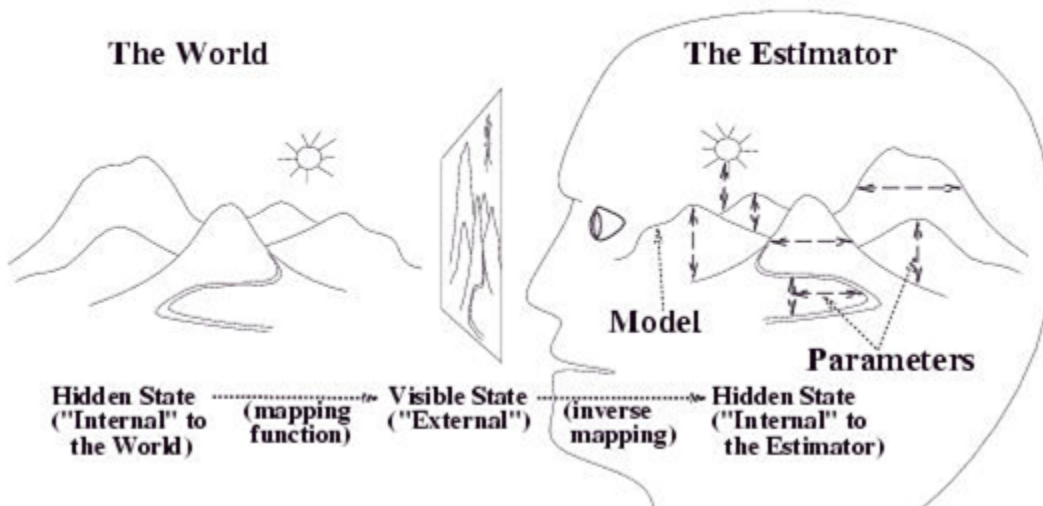
- A simple, graphical notation for conditional independence assertions and hence for compact specification of full joint distributions
- Syntax – a set of nodes, one per variable – a directed, acyclic graph (link \approx “directly influences”) – a conditional distribution for each node given its parents: $P(X_i | \text{Parents}(X_i))$

Finally, $P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod P(x_i | \text{parents}(X_i))$

Example1:



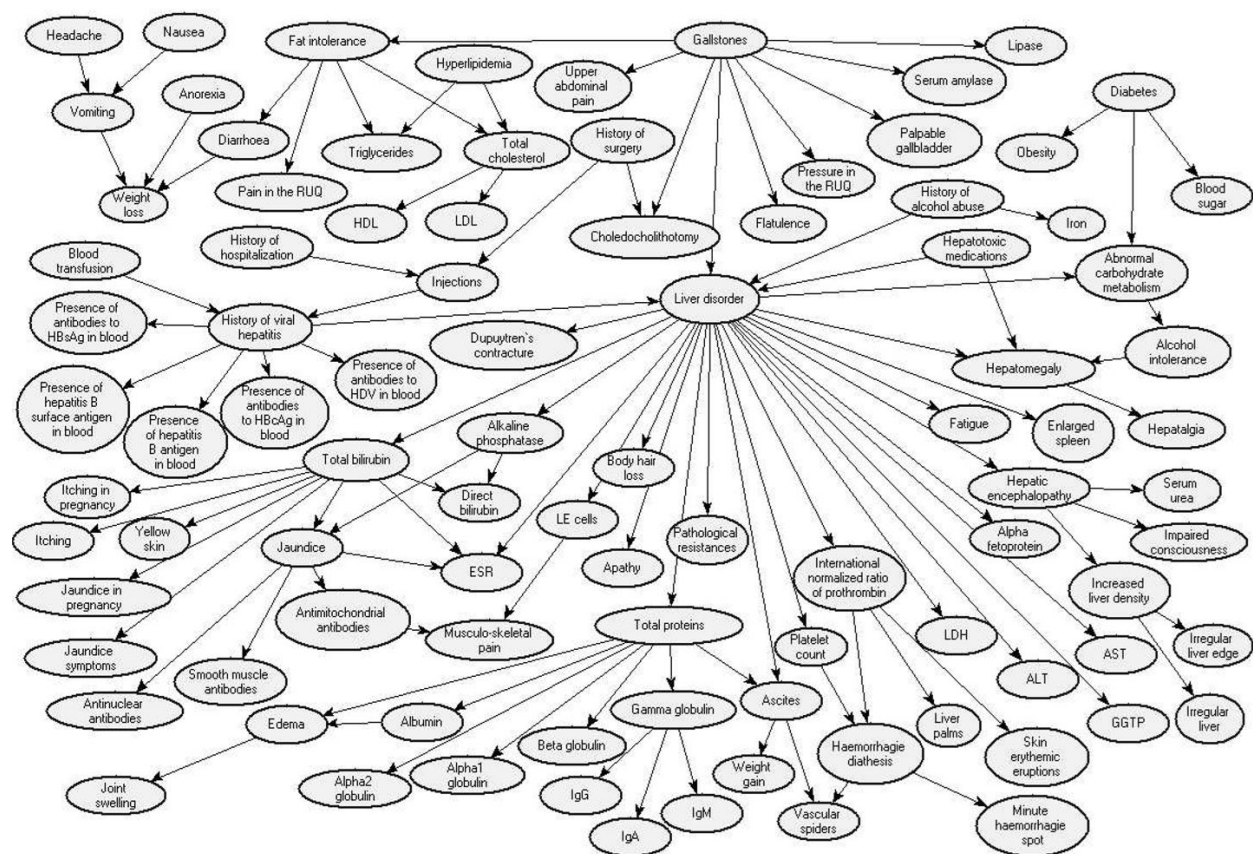
Bayesian network reflects the states of some part of the world that is being modeled and it describes how those states are related by probabilities. Consider the following figure

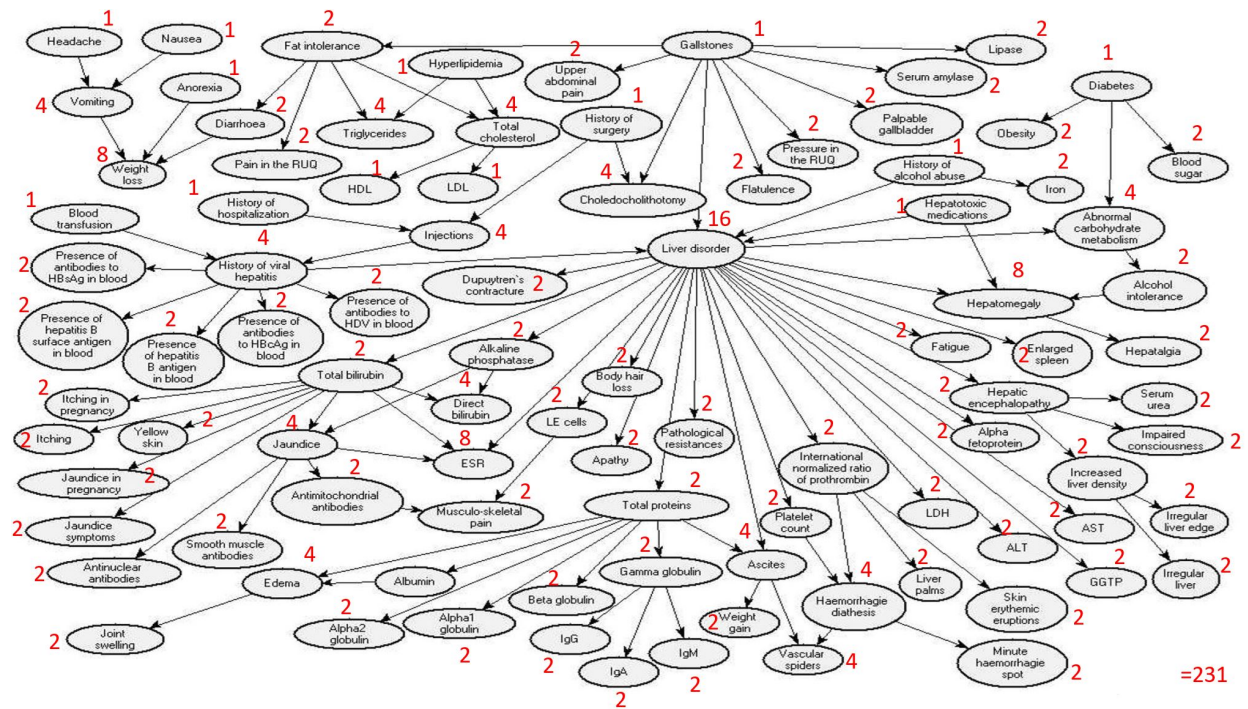


There is an agent which recognizes a world, and it perceives that the world has mountains, roads, sun and so on. The world's model has been recognized with the help of knowledge representation. Now, how can an agent say that there will be a possibility for the occurrence of accidents on a bend road. In that case, probabilities come in. Is there any belief for the statements delivered by an agent, in that case, there is a need of a Bayesian network which purely works based on conditional probability. Well, typically some states will tend to occur more frequently when

other states are present. Thus, if you are sick, the chances of a runny nose are higher. If it is cloudy, the chances of rain are higher, and so on. Here is a simple Bayes net that illustrates these concepts. In this simple world, let us say the weather can have three states: sunny, cloudy, or rainy, also that the grass can be wet or dry, and that the sprinkler can be on or off. Now there are some causal links in this world. If it is rainy, then it will make the grass wet directly. But if it is sunny for a long time, that too can make the grass wet, indirectly, by causing us to turn on the sprinkler.

Example2:





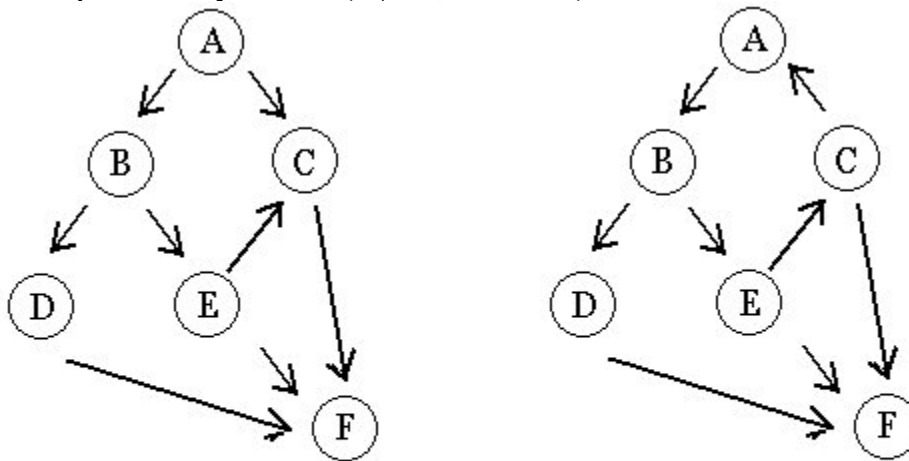
Bayesian Network Model

Definition of Bayesian Networks

A Bayesian Network consists of [Jensen, 1996]:

A set of variables and a set of direct edges between variables

- Each variable has a finite set of mutually exclusive states
- The variable and direct edge form a DAG (directed acyclic graph)
- To each variable A with parents $B_1, B_2 \dots B_n$ there is attached a conditional probability table $P(A | B_1, B_2 \dots B_n)$



The graph on the left is a valid Bayesian network. The probabilities to specify are $P(A)$, $P(B|A)$, $P(C|A,E)$, $P(D|B)$, $P(E|B)$ and $P(F|C,D,E)$.

The one on the right is not a valid Bayesian network as the cycle ABEC exists.

In a Bayesian network, quoting directly from [Nilsson, 1998], each node of the graph are "conditionally independent of any subset of the nodes that are not descendants of itself given its parent". (*huh?*)

Let put this in another way: If we let V be a node in graph, and $\text{non}(V)$ be any set of nodes that are non-descendant of V , and $\text{par}(V)$ be set of the immediate parent of V , then $\text{non}(V)$ is conditionally independent of V for $\text{par}(V)$, or

$$P(V | \text{non}(V), \text{par}(V)) = P(V | \text{par}(V))$$

Hence, for every node in the network ($V_1, V_2 \dots V_n$) are we can write down the joint probability of all nodes as:

$$P(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(V_i | \text{par}(V_i))$$

After getting the joint probability the system, we can then extract the necessary probability by the use of marginalization.

From this rules, we can see that in order to calculate the value of joint probabilities, we just need to calculate the conditional probability between itself and its parent, for each nodes in the network. Then we can use the chain rule obtain the joint probability functions of the network.

In the left example above, we can obtain $P(A,B,C,D,E,F)$ by the use of chain rules and theory on conditional independent(In this example (D,E) and (C,D) are conditionally independent of each other.):

$$\begin{aligned} P(A,B,C,D,E,F) &= P(F|C,D,E)P(A,B,C,D,E) \\ &= P(F|C,D,E)P(C|A,E)P(D|B)P(E|B)P(B,A) \\ &= P(F|C,D,E)P(C|A,E)P(D|B)P(E|B)P(B|A)P(A) \end{aligned}$$

For nodes that have no parents, their random variables are not conditioned on the other random variables, and are called *prior probabilities*. In the example above it will be A. Note that if a random variable is prior probabilities, then the table for its corresponding node reduces to unconditional probabilities table.

By using the Bayesian network, we have reduced number of joint probability required. For example, if A...F are all Boolean values (i.e. has two states), then we only need to store $1+2+4+2+2+8= 19$ nodes conditional probabilities if we use Bayesian network formula, as oppose to $2^6-1 = 63$ if we use joint probabilities directly.

NOTE: 1. Every node has no parent, given value is 1

(eg, suppose node A has no parent so node A value is 1)

2. Every node has k parent, given value is 2^k .

(eg, suppose node F has 3 parent so node F value is 2^3 is 8)