

MITx: 6.008.1x Computational Probability and Inference

Heli



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Practice Problem: Computing the Normalization Constant Solution

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PRACTICE PROBLEM: COMPUTING THE NORMALIZATION CONSTANT (SOLUTION)

It turns out that once we know the potential functions, the normalization constant \boldsymbol{Z} becomes fixed since the distribution needs to sum to 1. Let's show this for a simple case. Consider a two node graphical model with an edge between the two nodes corresponding to

$$p_{X_1,X_2}(x_1,x_2) = rac{1}{Z}\phi_1(x_1)\phi_2(x_2)\psi_{12}(x_1,x_2).$$

Suppose that we are given what the potential functions are. Show what Z is equal to as a function of ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 , and ψ_{12} .

Hint: Sum both sides over all values of x_1 and all values of x_2 . What is $\sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} p_{X_1,X_2}(x_1,x_2)$ equal to?

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Because knowing the potentials fixes what the value of $m{Z}$ is, often times we'll omit writing $m{Z}$ and instead write

$$p_{\underline{X}}(\underline{x}) \propto \prod_{i \in V} \phi_i(x_i) \prod_{(i,j) \in E} \psi_{ij}(x_i,x_j),$$

where " \propto " means "proportional to".

Solution: We have

$$egin{array}{lcl} 1 & = & \displaystyle\sum_{x_1} \displaystyle\sum_{x_2} p_{X_1,X_2}(x_1,x_2) \ & = & \displaystyle\sum_{x_1} \displaystyle\sum_{x_2} rac{1}{Z} \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \psi_{12}(x_1,x_2) \ & = & \displaystylerac{1}{Z} \displaystyle\sum_{x_1} \displaystyle\sum_{x_2} \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \psi_{12}(x_1,x_2), \end{array}$$

SO

$$Z = \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \psi_{12}(x_1,x_2).$$

In general for a graphical model with graph G=(V,E) and factorization

$$p_{X_1,\ldots,X_n}(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = rac{1}{Z} \prod_{i \in V} \phi_i(x_i) \prod_{(i,j) \in E} \psi_{ij}(x_i,x_j),$$

using the same reasoning as above,

$$Z = \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_n} \prod_{i \in V} \phi_i(x_i) \prod_{(i,j) \in E} \psi_{ij}(x_i,x_j).$$

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