
Inference in DAGs, Parametrized Conditional Distributions, Influence Decision Diagrams

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- Influence Decision Diagrams, Posterior Expected Utility, Maximum Expected Utility, Value of Perfect Information, Partially Observed Markov Decision Process, Markov Decision Process

- Kevin Murphy, Machine Learning: A probabilistic Perspective, Chapter 10
- Koller, D. and N. Friedman (2009). Probabilistic Graphical Models: Principles and Techniques. MIT Press, Chapter 3
- Chris Bishop, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, Chapter 8
- Jordan, M. I. (2007). An introduction to probabilistic graphical models. In preparation (Chapter 2) – Also review article entitled ‘Graphical Models’
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Summary of Markov Properties of DGMs

- We have now described three Markov properties for DAGs:

*G: Directed Global
Markov Property*

$$\mathbf{x}_A \perp_G \mathbf{x}_B | \mathbf{x}_E \iff A \text{ is d-separated from } B \text{ given } E$$

*L: Directed Local
Markov Property*

$$t \perp \text{nd}(t) \setminus \text{pa}(t) | \text{pa}(t)$$

*O: Ordered
Markov Property*

$$t \perp \text{pred}(t) \setminus \text{pa}(t) | \text{pa}(t)$$

- It is obvious that $G \Rightarrow L \Rightarrow O$.
- What is less obvious, but nevertheless true, is that $O \Rightarrow L \Rightarrow G$. Hence all *these properties are equivalent*.
- Furthermore, any distribution p that is Markov wrt G can be factorized as;

*F: Factorization
Property*

$$p(\mathbf{x}_{1:V} | G) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(x_t | \mathbf{x}_{\text{pa}(t)})$$

- Clearly $O \Rightarrow F$, but one can show that the converse also holds.

- Koller, D. and N. Friedman (2009). *Probabilistic Graphical Models: Principles and Techniques*. MIT Press.

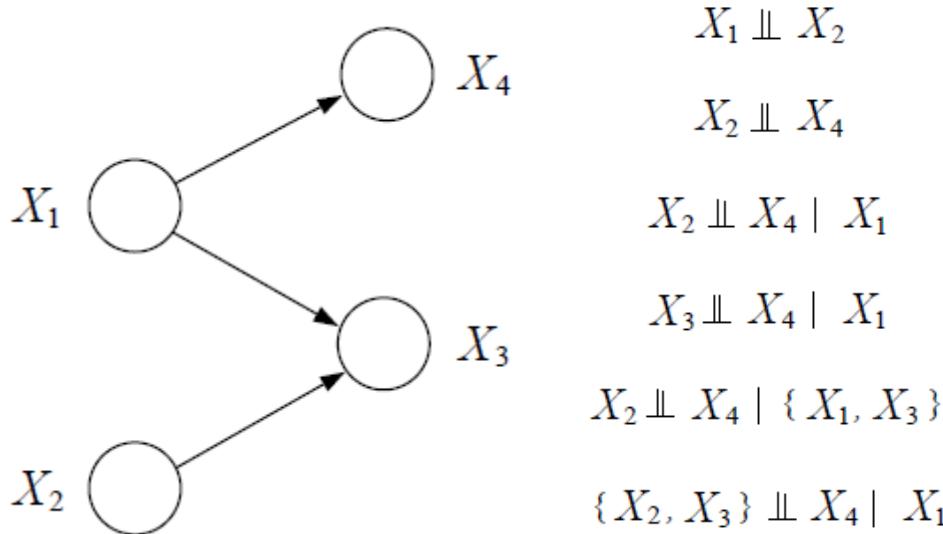


Characterization of Directed Graphs

- Consider \mathcal{D}_1 being the joint distribution of the directed graph (for any values of the conditional Tables)

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \triangleq \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | x_{\pi_i})$$

- There is a family \mathcal{D}_2 of distributions associated with G that includes all $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ that satisfy every CI relation associated with the graph.

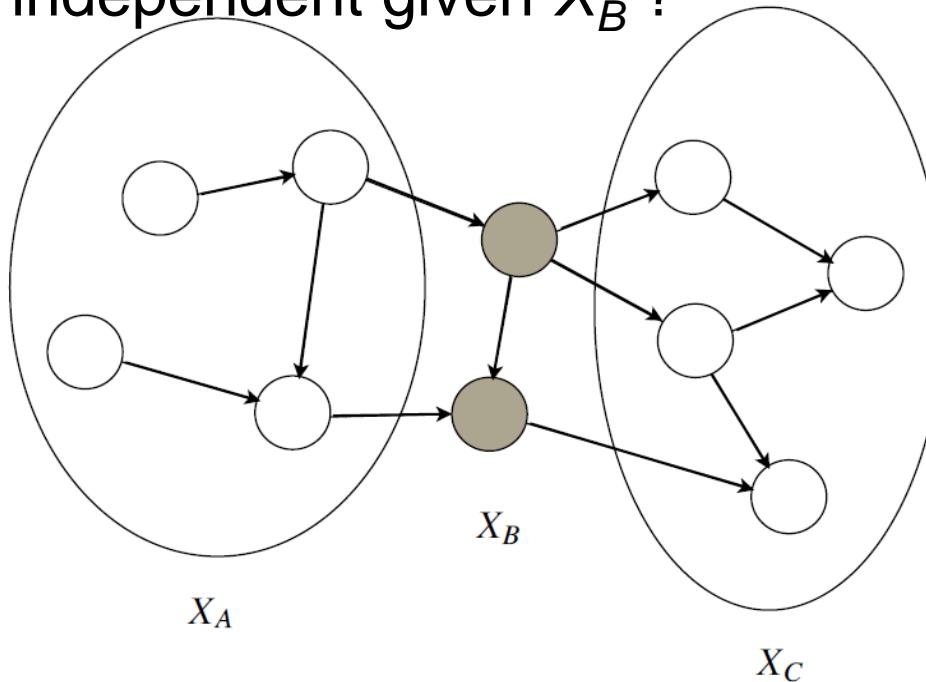


- Theorem: The two distributions \mathcal{D}_1 and \mathcal{D}_2 are identical.



General Conditional Independence

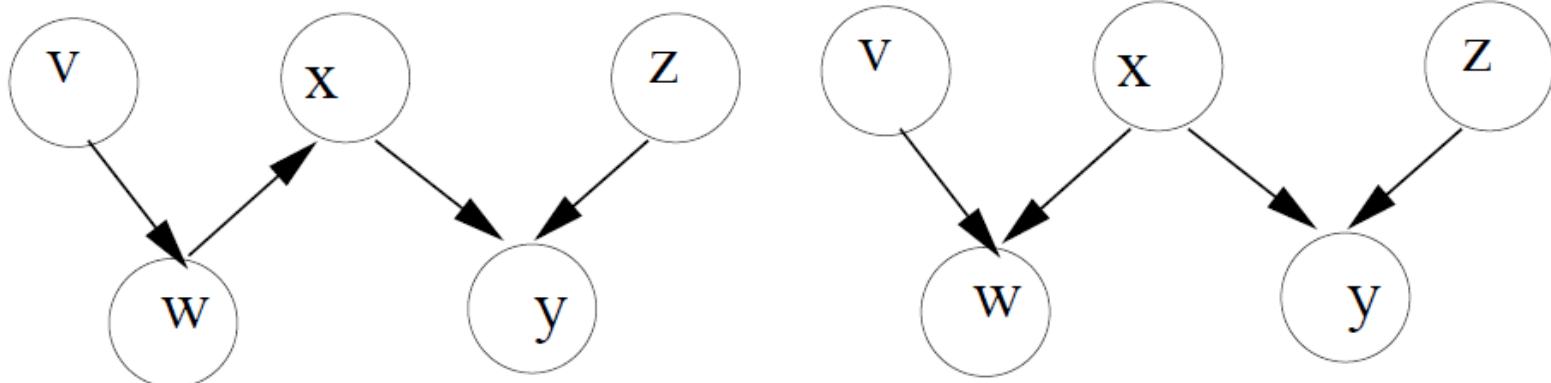
- For any given (nonoverlapping) sets of nodes X_A , X_B , and X_C , and a given graph (factorization) G , are X_A and X_C conditionally independent given X_B ?



- *What is the set of all CI assertions for graph G ?*
- *D-Separation* and the *Bayes Ball Algorithm* provide the answer.

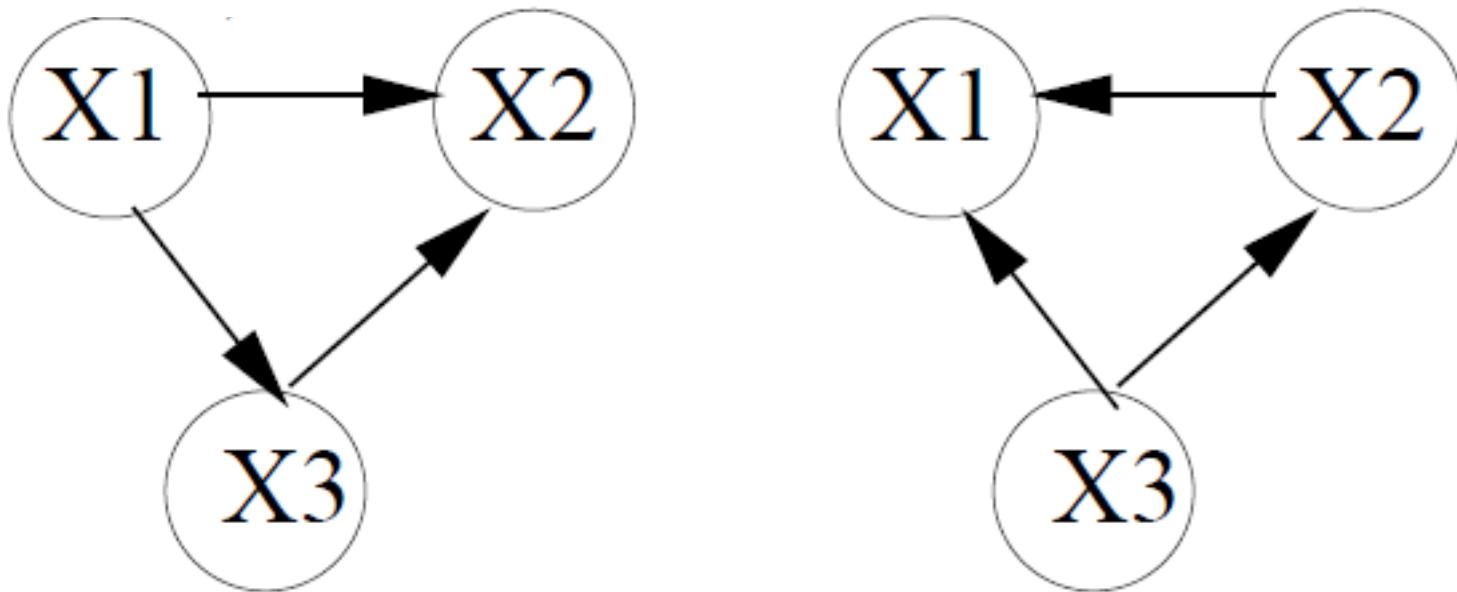
I-Equivalence

- We write $x_A \perp_G x_B | x_C$ if A is independent of B given C in the graph G .
- Let $I(G)$ be the set of all such CI statements encoded by the graph.
- Definition: G_1 and G_2 are I-equivalent if $I(G_1) = I(G_2)$
- Theorem: If G_1 and G_2 have the same **undirected skeleton** and the same set of v-structures, then they are I-equivalent.



I-Equivalence

- If G_1 is I-equivalent to G_2 , the two graphs do not necessarily have the same skeleton and v-structures.
- For example, the two graphs below have $I(G_1)=I(G_2)=0$.



- We can only identify graph structure up to I-equivalence, i.e., we cannot always tell the direction of all the arrows from observational data.
- This is important in the context of graph structure learning and causality.



Conditional Independence & I-map

- At the heart of any *directed* graphical model is a set of conditional independence (CI) assumptions
- We write $x_A \perp_G x_B | x_C$ if A is independent of B given C in the graph G .
- Let $I(G)$ be the set of all such CI statements encoded by the graph
- We say $I(G)$ is an I-map for p if $I(G) \subseteq I(p)$, where $I(p)$ is the set of all conditional independent statements that hold for distribution p .
 - This allows us to use G as a safe proxy for p .

Independence Properties of Distributions

- Definition: let $I(P)$ be the set of independence properties of the form $X \perp Y | Z$ that hold in distribution P .
- Consider a discrete distribution defined as follows:

X	Y	$p(X, Y)$
0	0	0.08
0	1	0.32
1	0	0.12
1	1	0.48

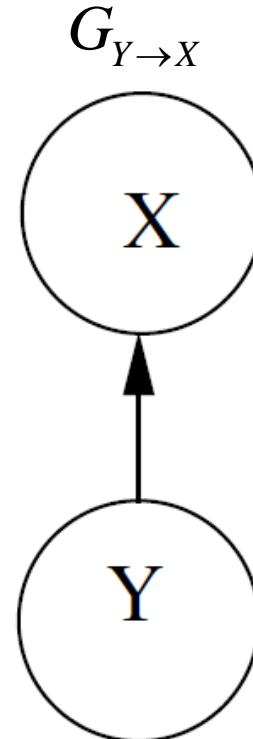
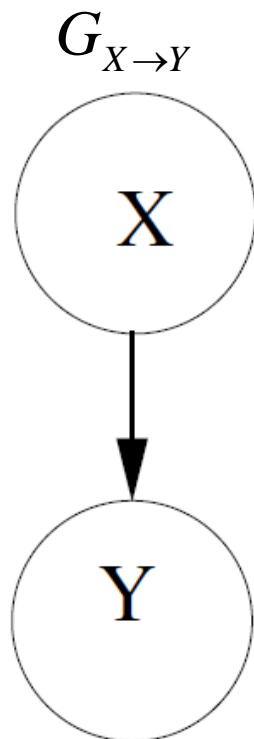
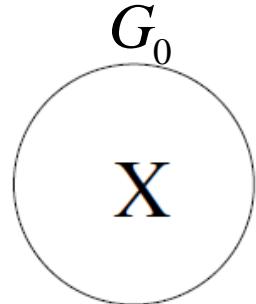
- Note from this Table that:

$$P(X = 1) = 0.48 + 0.12 = 0.6, \quad P(Y = 1) = 0.32 + 0.48 = 0.8$$
$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0.48 = 0.6 \times 0.8 \Rightarrow P(X=x, Y=y) = P(X=x)P(Y=y) \quad \forall x, y$$

$$\Rightarrow (X \perp Y) \in I(P) \quad \text{or } P \models (X \perp Y)$$

Local Independence Properties $I_\ell(G)$ of G

- Let $I_\ell(G)$ be the set of all CI statements encoded by the graphs shown.
By inspection, we can write:



$$I_\ell(G_0) = \{(X \perp Y)\}$$

$$I_\ell(G_{X \rightarrow Y}) = 0$$

$$I_\ell(G_{Y \rightarrow X}) = 0$$

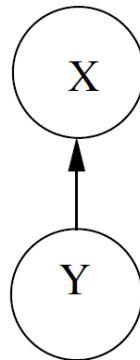
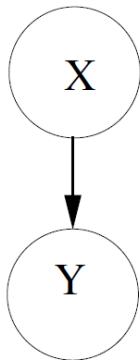
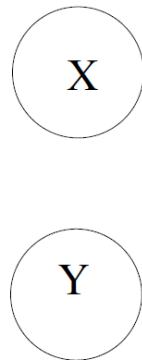
I-Maps

- Definition: A DAG G is an I-map (independency-map) of P if

$$I_I(G) \subseteq I(P)$$

i.e. P satisfies all local independencies associated with G. However, P may have additional independencies not reflected by G.

- From previous example



X	Y	$p(X, Y)$
0	0	0.08
0	1	0.32
1	0	0.12
1	1	0.48

$I_I(P) = \{(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y)\}$

$$I_\ell(G_0) = \{(X \perp Y)\} \quad I_\ell(G_{X \rightarrow Y}) = 0 \quad I_\ell(G_{Y \rightarrow X}) = 0$$

- Hence all three graphs are I-maps of P.

I-Maps

- Let $I_i(G)$ be the set of all such CI statements encoded by the graph.
- We say that G is an **I-map** (independence map) for p , or **that p is Markov wrt G** , iff $I_i(G) \subseteq I(p)$, where $I(p)$ is the set of all CI statements that hold for distribution p .
- In other words, *the graph is an I-map if it does not make any assertions of CI that are not true of the distribution.*
- This allows us to **use the graph as a safe proxy for p when reasoning about p 's CI properties.**
- This is helpful for designing algorithms that work for large classes of distributions, regardless of their specific numerical parameters θ .



From I-MAP to Factorization

- Definition: P factorizes according to G if P can be written as

$$p(\mathbf{x}_{1:V} \mid G) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(x_t \mid \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)})$$

- Theorem: If G is an I-map of P, then P factorizes according to G.
The proof can be seen as follows. Assume a topological ordering

$$p(\mathbf{X}_{1:V} \mid G) = p(X_1)p(X_2 \mid X_1)p(X_3 \mid X_1, X_2)\dots$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^V p(x_i \mid \mathbf{x}_{1:i-1})$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^V p(X_i \mid \mathbf{X}_{pa(i)}, \mathbf{Z}) = \prod_{i=1}^V p(X_i \mid \mathbf{X}_{pa(i)}) \quad (\text{where } \mathbf{Z} \subseteq \mathbf{X}_{\text{NonDescendants}(i)})$$

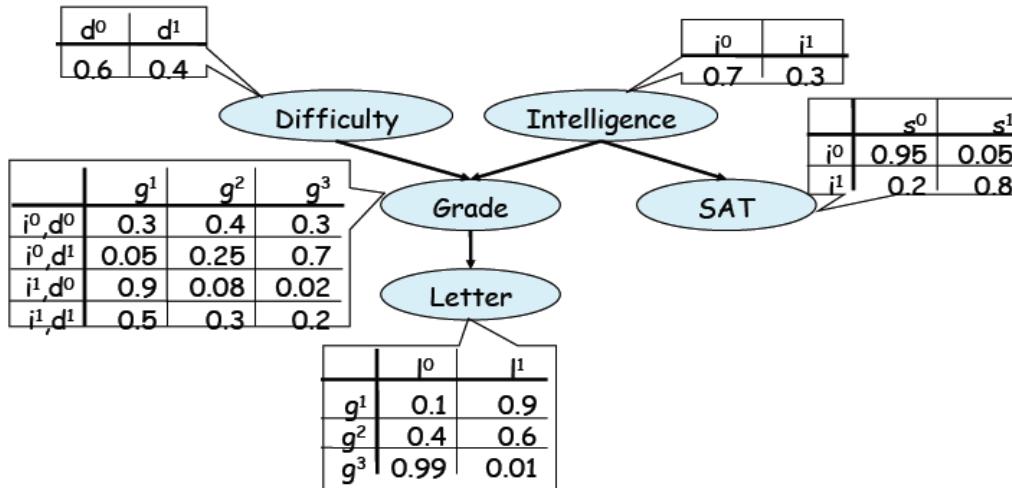
where the last step follows since G is an I-Map of p.



Example

- In the graph shown below, the factorization of P is as follows:

$$p(D, I, G, S, L) = p(D)p(I)p(G|D, I)p(S|I)p(L|G)$$



$$L \perp I, D, S | G$$

$$S \perp D, G, L | I$$

$$G \perp S | I, D$$

$$I \perp D$$

$$D \perp I, S$$

- The number of independent parameters is now $1+1+8+2+3=15$.
- Specification of the full joint requires $48 - 1 = 47$ parameters.
- In general, the number of parameters is less than $V 2^k$, where $k=\#$ parents (exponentially smaller than the number of parameters needed in the joint 2^V-1).

Compact Representation of the Joint Distribution

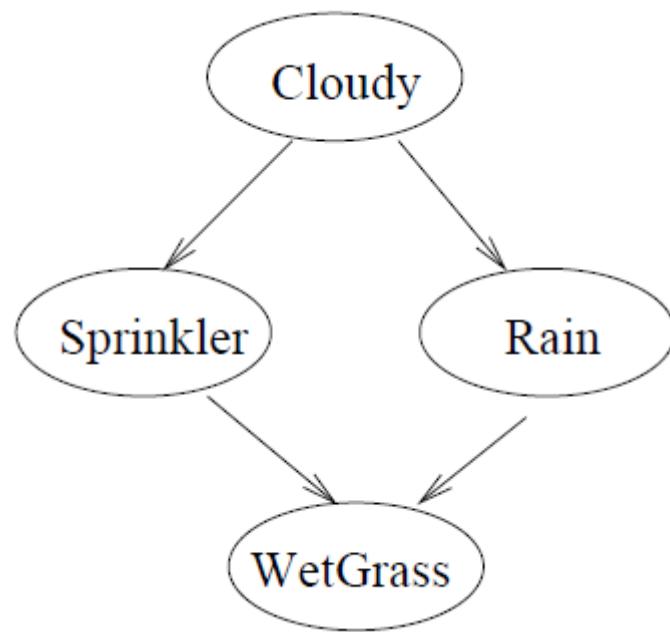
- Theorem: If G is an I-map of P , then P factorizes according to G .

$$p(\mathbf{x}_{1:V} \mid G) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(x_t \mid \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)})$$

- Corollary: *If G is an I-map of P , then we can represent P using G and a set of conditional probability distributions (CPDs), $P(X_i \mid Pa(X_i))$, one per node.*
- Definition: *A Bayesian network (aka belief network) representing distribution P is an I-map of P and a set of CPDs.*
- For binary random variables, the Bayes net takes $\mathcal{O}(V2^K)$ parameters ($K = \max.$ num. parents), whereas full joint takes $\mathcal{O}(2^V)$ parameters.
- Factored representation is easier to understand, easier to learn and supports more efficient inference.



Compact Representation of the Joint Distribution

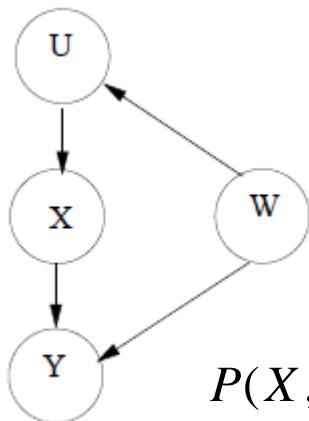


$$P(C, S, R, W) = P(C)P(S|C)P(R|C)P(W|S, R)$$

From Factorization to I-Map

- Theorem: If P factorizes according to G , then G is an I-Map of P .
- We show the proof with an example. Consider a distribution P that factorizes according to G as:

$$P(X, W, U, Y) = p(W)p(U | W)p(Y | X, W)p(X | U)$$



□ From this factorization we can derive

$$X \perp W | U$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X, W | U) &= \frac{\sum_Y P(X, W, U, Y)}{P(U)} = \frac{p(W)p(U | W)p(X | U)\sum_Y p(Y | X, W)}{P(U)} \\ &= \frac{p(U, W)p(X | U)}{p(U)} \Rightarrow P(X, W | U) = P(X | U)P(W | U) \end{aligned}$$

Minimal I-Maps and Bayesian Nets

- Let G be a fully connected DAG. Then $I_I(G) = \emptyset \subseteq I(P)$ for any P .
- Hence the complete graph is an I-map for any distribution.
- The fully connected graph is an I-map of all distributions, since it makes no CI assertions at all (since it is not missing any edges).
- Definition: *A DAG G is a minimal I-map for P if it is an I-map for P , and if the removal of even a single edge from G renders it not an I-map.*
- We therefore say G is a **minimal I-map** of p if G is an I-map of p , and if there is no $G' \subseteq G$ which is an I-map of p .



Minimal I-Maps and Bayesian Nets

- Construction: pick a node ordering, then let the parents of node X_i be the minimal subset of $U \subseteq \{X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}\}$ such that:

$$X_i \perp \{X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}\} \setminus U | U.$$

- Updated Definition: *A Bayesian network (aka belief network) representing distribution P is a minimal I-map of P and a set of CPDs.*

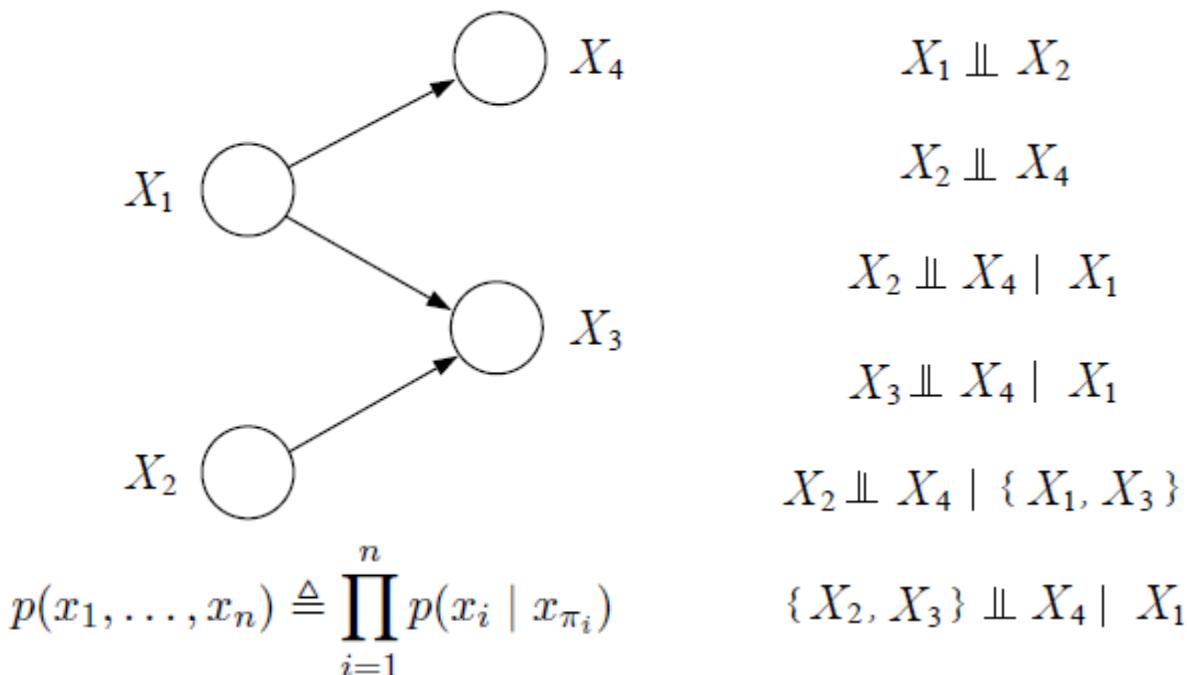
Conditional Independence Properties of DGMs

- A fully connected graph is an I-map of all distributions, since it makes no CI assertions at all
- We therefore say G is a minimal I-map of p if there is no $G' \subset G$ which is an I-map of p .
- Recall how to determine if $x_A \perp_G x_B | x_C$
 - For undirected graph, determining unconditional independencies is straightforward based on simple graph separation.
 - However for directed graphical model, we need to take into account the directions of the edges as well (explaining away)



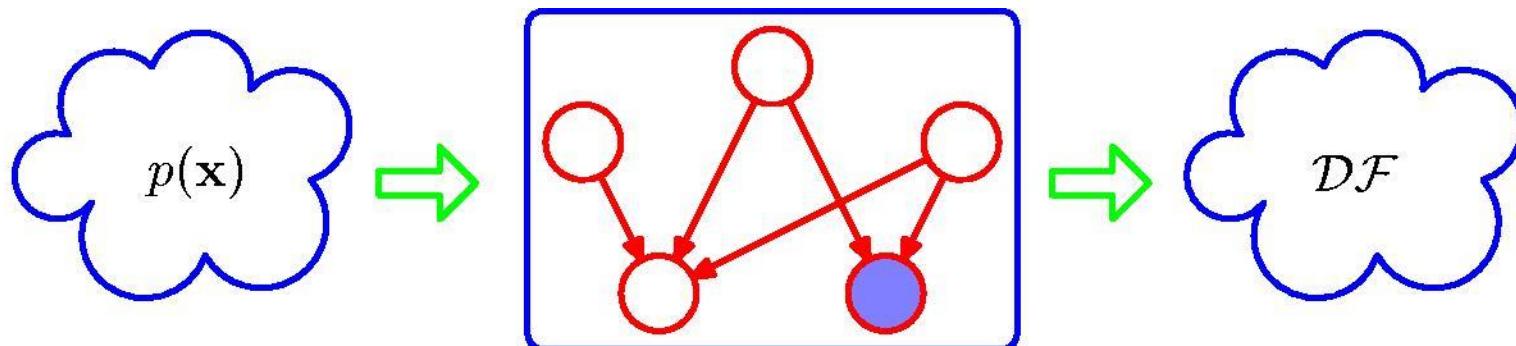
Characterization of Directed Graphs

- Consider two distributions: One \mathcal{D}_1 being the joint distribution of the directed graph (for any values of the conditional Tables) and the other \mathcal{D}_2 defined from all the independent relations between the random variables in the graph.



- *Theorem: The two distributions \mathcal{D}_1 and \mathcal{D}_2 are identical.*

Directed Graphs as Distribution Filters



We can view a graphical model (in this case a directed graph) as a filter in which *a probability distribution $p(x)$ is allowed through the filter if, and only if, it satisfies the directed factorization property*. The set of all possible probability distributions $p(x)$ that pass through the filter is denoted \mathcal{DF} .

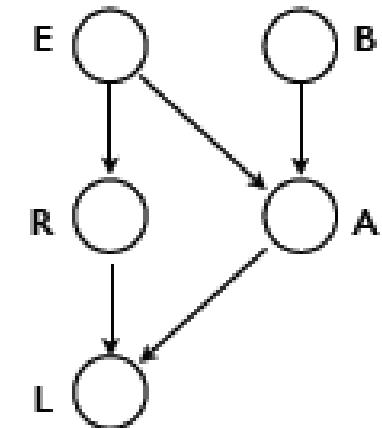
Note that for any given graph, *the set of distributions \mathcal{DF} will include any distributions that have additional independence properties beyond those described by the graph*.

Directed Graphs and Distributions

- The probability distribution associated with the graph needs to be consistent with all the independence relations encoded in the graph.

$$p(A, B, E, R, L) = p(E)p(B)p(R | E)p(A | B, E)p(L | A, R)$$

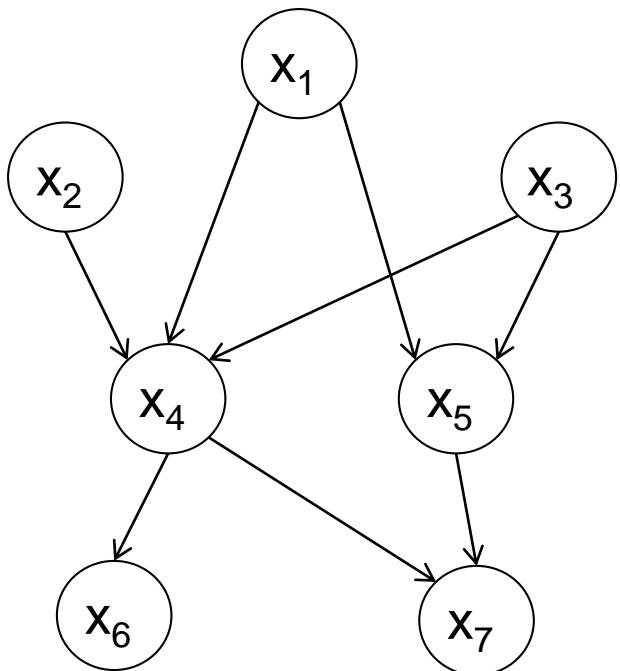
- However, a distribution that is consistent with the graph may satisfy additional independence properties not encoded in the graph, e.g.



$$p(A, B, E, R, L) = p(E)p(B)p(R | E)p(A | E)p(L | R)$$

$$p(A, B, E, R, L) = p(E)p(B)p(R | E)p(A)p(L)$$

DAGs and Probability Distributions



$$p(x_1, \dots, x_7) = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3)p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)p(x_5|x_1, x_3)p(x_6|x_4)p(x_7|x_4, x_5)$$

General Factorization

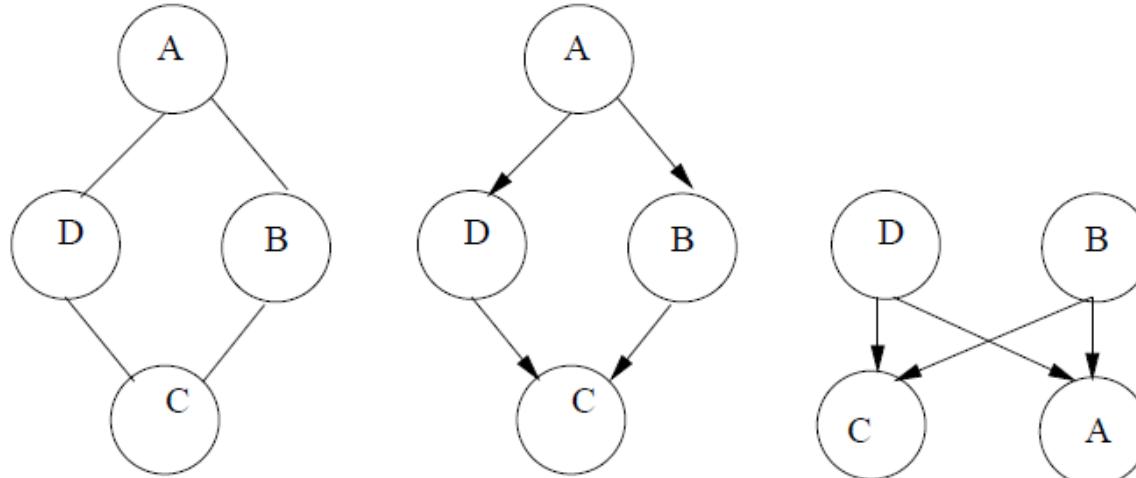
$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{k=1}^K p(x_k | x_{Pa_k})$$

Any distribution $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K)$ consistent with all the independence statements implied by a DAG via D-separation can be written as a product of local conditional distributions of a variable given its parents

$$x_{Pa_k} = \{x_j, j \in Pa_k\}$$

P-Map (Perfect-Map)

- Can we find a graph that captures all the independencies in an arbitrary distribution (and no more)?
- Defn: A DAG G is a perfect map (P-map) for a distribution P if $I(P) = I(G)$.
- Thm: *not every distribution has a perfect map.*
- Proof by counterexample. Suppose we have a model where $A \perp C | \{B, D\}$, and $B \perp D | \{A, C\}$. This cannot be represented by any Bayes net.
- In the example, BN1 wrongly says $B \perp D | A$, BN2 wrongly says $B \perp D$.



Global Markov Properties of DAGS

- By chaining together local independencies, we can infer more global independencies.
- Defn: X is d-separated (directed-separated) from Y given Z if along every undirected path between X and Y there is a node w s.t. either
 - W has converging arrows ($\rightarrow w \leftarrow$) and neither W nor its descendants are in z; or
 - W does not have converging arrows and $W \in Z$.
- Definition: $I(G) = \text{all independence properties that correspond to d-separation}$

$$I(G) = \{(X \perp Y | Z) : d - sep_G(X; Y | Z)\}$$



Soundness of d-Separation

- Theorem: If P factorizes according to G , then $I(G) \subseteq I(P)$.
- This means that any independence claim made by the graph is satisfied by all distributions P that factorize according to G (no false claims of independence).
- The proof of the theorem is easier highlighted for undirected graphs where d-separation is a simple graph separation (see Koller and Friedman, Chapter 4).



Completeness of d-Separation

- Theorem (Completeness) v1: For any distribution P that factorizes over G, if $(X \perp Y | Z) \in I(P)$, then $dsep_G(X; Y | Z)$.
- Contrapositive rule: $(A \Rightarrow B) \iff (\neg B \Rightarrow \neg A)$.
- Theorem (Completeness, contrapositive form) v1. If X and Y are not d-separated given Z, then X and Y are dependent in all distributions P that factorize over G.
- This definition of completeness is too strong since P may have conditional independencies that are not evident from the graph.
- eg. Let G be the graph $X \rightarrow Y$, where $P(Y | X)$ is

X	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
0	0.4	0.6
1	0.4	0.6
- G is I-map of P since $I(G) = \emptyset \subseteq I(P) = \{(X \perp Y)\}$.
- But the CPD encodes $X \perp Y$ which is not evident in the graph.



Completeness of d-Separation

- Theorem (Completeness) v2: *If $(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z)$ in all distributions P that factorize over G , then $dsep_G(X; Y | Z)$.*
- Theorem (Completeness, contrapositive form) v2: *If X and Y are not d-separated given Z , then X and Y are dependent in some distribution P that factorizes over G .*
- Theorem: *d-separation is complete.*
- Proof: See Koller & Friedman, Theorem 3.5, p73.
- Hence d-separation captures as many of the independencies as possible (without reference to the particular CPDs) for all distributions that factorize over some DAG.

D-Separation \leftrightarrow Factorization

- Consider a DAG G with nodes (variables) X_1, \dots, X_V
- Consider the set \mathcal{U} of all (families of) joint distributions for the same variables
- A subset of distributions, $\mathcal{DI} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$, maintain the CI assertions implied by D-separation in G
- Another subset of distributions, $\mathcal{DF} \subseteq \mathcal{U}$, can be factored according to G
- It turns out that $\mathcal{DI} = \mathcal{DF}$

Inference in DAGs

- DAGs provide a compact way to define joint probability distributions. We can use such a joint distribution to perform **probabilistic inference**.
- This refers to the task of *estimating unknown quantities from known quantities*.
- *For example, in HMMs estimate the hidden states (e.g., words) from the observations (e.g., speech signal).*
- *In the genetic linkage analysis one of the goals was to estimate the likelihood of the data under various DAGs, corresponding to different hypotheses about the location of the disease-causing gene.*
- For posing the inference problem let us suppose we have a set of correlated random variables with joint distribution $p(\mathbf{x}_{1:V}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$.
(Assume at this point that $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ are known).



Inference in DAGs

- We partition $\mathbf{x}_{1:v}$ into the *visible variables* \mathbf{x}_v , which are observed, and *the hidden variables*, \mathbf{x}_h , which are unobserved.
- Inference refers to *computing the posterior distribution of the unknowns given the knowns*:

$$p(\mathbf{x}_h \mid \mathbf{x}_v, \theta) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_h, \mathbf{x}_v \mid \theta)}{p(\mathbf{x}_v \mid \theta)} = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_h, \mathbf{x}_v \mid \theta)}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_h} p(\mathbf{x}_h, \mathbf{x}_v \mid \theta)}$$

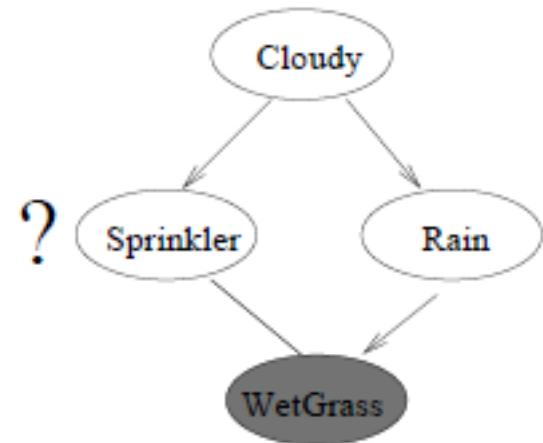
- We are conditioning on the data by clamping the visible variables to their observed values and then normalizing going from $p(\mathbf{x}_h, \mathbf{x}_v)$ to $p(\mathbf{x}_h \mid \mathbf{x}_v)$.
- $p(\mathbf{x}_v \mid \theta)$ (likelihood of the data) is the *probability of the evidence*.
- *Examples:*
 - *Medical diagnosis:* \mathbf{x}_v =symptoms, \mathbf{x}_h =diseases
 - *Speech recognition:* \mathbf{x}_v =acoustic wave form, \mathbf{x}_h =spoken words
 - *Genetic Pedigree analysis:* \mathbf{x}_v =phenotype, \mathbf{x}_h =genotype



Naïve Inference

- In the example shown, we can represent the joint probability distribution $P(C,S,R,W)$ as a 4D table of $2^4 = 16$ numbers.
- We observe the grass is wet and want to know how likely it was that the sprinkler caused this event.

$$p(s=1 | w=1) = \frac{\sum_{r,c=0}^1 p(C=c, s=1, R=r, w=1)}{\sum_{s,c,r=0}^1 p(C=c, S=s, R=r, w=1)}$$

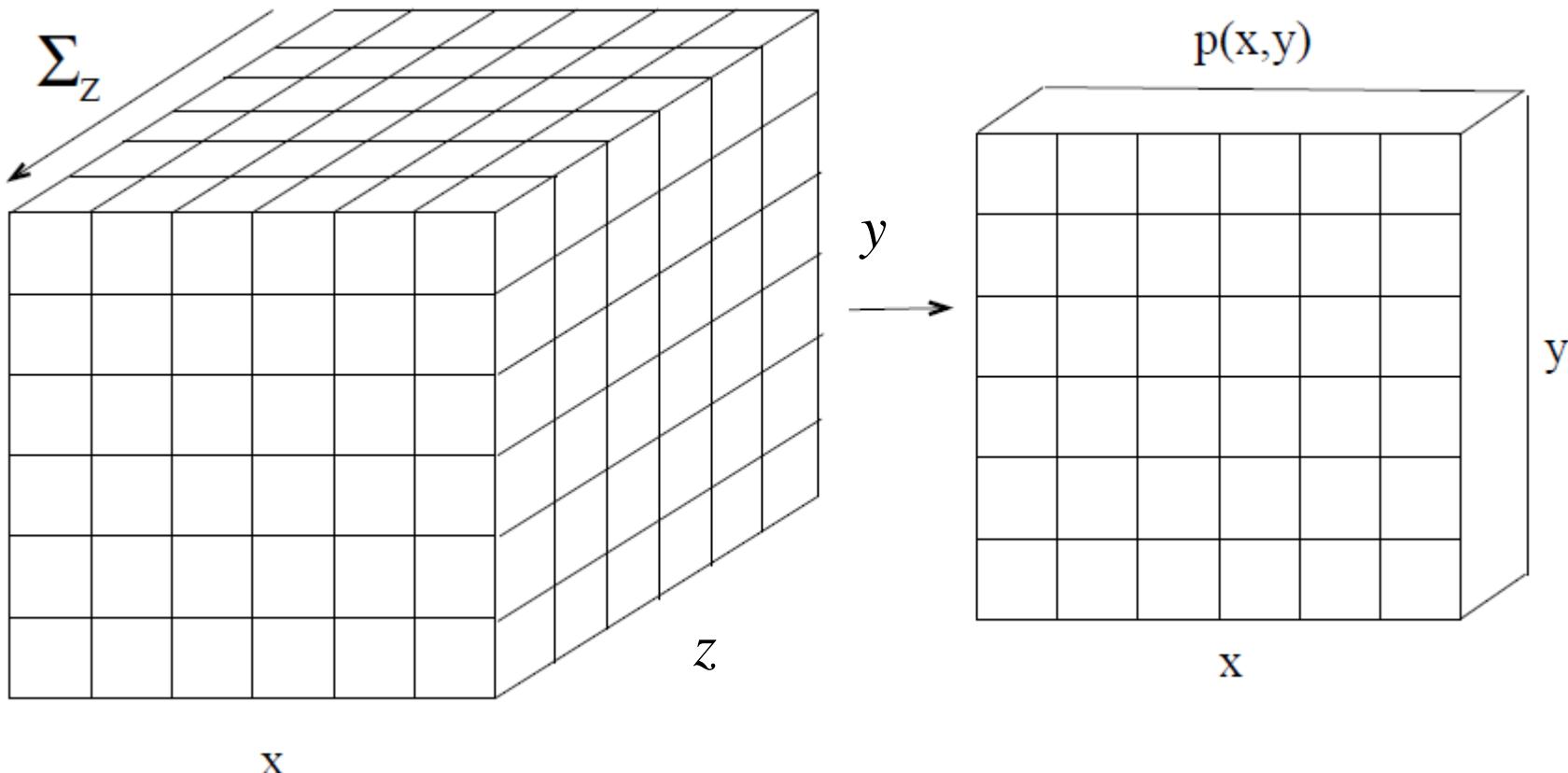


- Query/hidden variables = {S}
- Visible variables = {W}
- Nuisance variables = {C,R} (need to be integrated out)

Marginalization for CPTs

- It is easy to marginalize a joint probability distribution when it is represented as a table

$$p(X, Y) = \sum_z p(X, Y, Z)$$



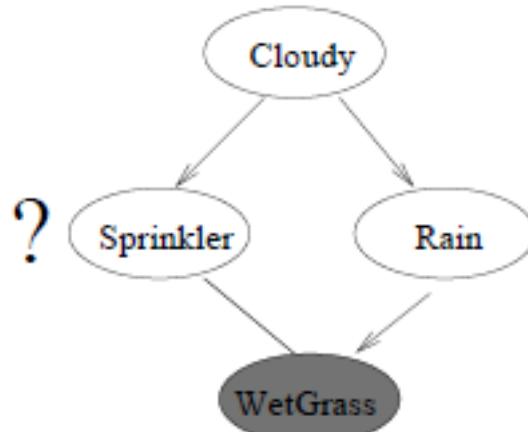
Representation of CPD as CPTs

- There are several problems in representing the joint CPD as a big table (CPT)
 - *Representation: big table of numbers is hard to understand.*
 - *Inference: computing a marginal $p(X_i)$ takes $\mathcal{O}(2^N)$ time.*
 - *Learning: there are $\mathcal{O}(2^N)$ free parameters to estimate.*
- Graphical models solve all of the above problems by providing a structured representation for the joint probability distribution.
- Graphs encode CI properties and represent families of probability distributions that satisfy these properties.

Inference by Marginalizing the Joint

- We can answer an query by marginalization of the joint distribution using the factorization implied by the graph. For example:

$$p(s=1 | w=1) = \frac{\sum_{c,r} p(C=c, s=1, R=r, w=1)}{\sum_{s,c,r} p(C=c, S=s, R=r, w=1)}$$
$$\frac{\sum_{c,r} p(C=c) p(S=1 | C=c) p(R=r | C=c) p(W=1 | S=s, R=r)}{\sum_{s,c,r} p(C=c, S=s, R=r, w=1)}$$



$$p(C, S, R, W) = p(C)p(S | C)p(R | C)p(W | S, R)$$

Discrete & Gaussian Variables

- The **exponential family** forms useful building blocks for constructing complex probability distributions, and the framework of graphical models is very useful in expressing the way in which these building blocks are linked together.

- Consider the case when the parent and child node each correspond to **discrete variables** or **Gaussian variables**. In these two cases the relationship can be extended hierarchically to construct arbitrarily complex directed acyclic graphs.



Discrete Variables

- Suppose two discrete variables x_1 and x_2 , each of which has K possible states, the joint probability distribution is given by

$$p(x_1, x_2 | \mu) = \prod_{i=1}^K \prod_{j=1}^K \mu_i^{x_{1i}} \mu_j^{x_{2j}}$$

where μ_i is the probability that state i occurred, $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K)$ only has one non-zero value.

- Dependent joint distribution: $K^2 - 1$ parameters



$$p(x_1, x_2 | \mu) = \prod_{i=1}^K \prod_{j=1}^K \mu_{ij}^{x_{1i}x_{2j}}$$

- Independent joint distribution: $2(K-1)$ parameters

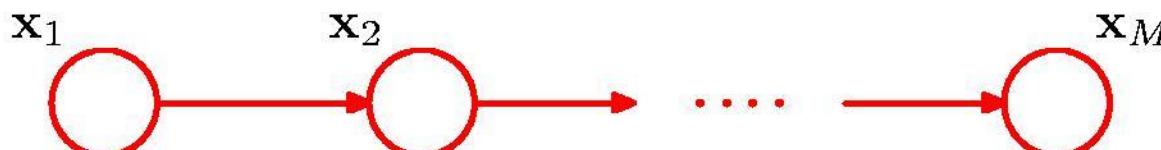


$$p(x_1, x_2 | \mu) = \prod_{i=1}^K \mu_i^{x_{1i}} \prod_{j=1}^K \mu_j^{x_{2j}}$$

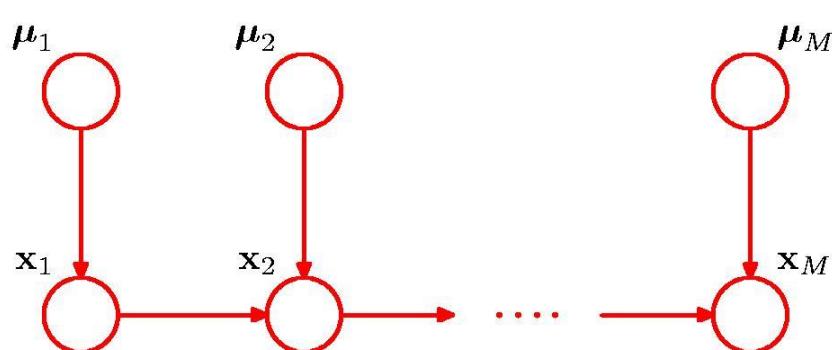
Discrete Variables

- General joint distribution over M variables: $K^M - 1$ parameters grow exponentially with M
- If all of M variables are independent: $M(K-1)$ parameters
- M -node Markov chain: $K-1 + (M-1)K(K-1)$ parameters
 - the marginal distribution $p(x_1)$ requires $K-1$ parameters
 - each of the $M-1$ conditional distributions $p(x_i|x_{i-1})$, for $i=2, \dots, M$, requires $K(K-1)$ parameters

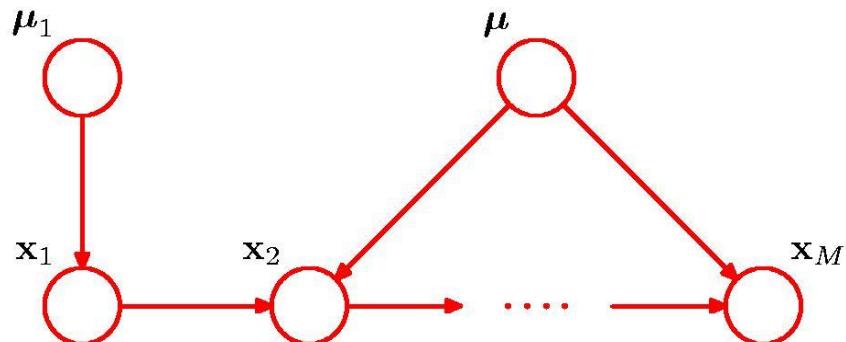
If all conditional distributions share parameters: K^2-1 total number of parameters



Discrete Variables: Bayesian Parameters



$$p(\{x_m, \mu_m\}) = p(x_1 | \mu_1) p(\mu_1) \prod_{m=2}^M p(x_m | x_{m-1}, \mu_m) p(\mu_m)$$
$$p(\mu_m) = \text{Dir}(\mu_m | \alpha_m)$$



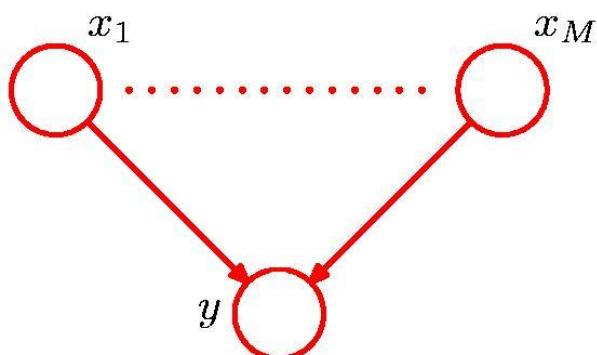
$$p(\{x_m, \mu_m\}) = p(x_1 | \mu_1) p(\mu_1) \prod_{m=2}^M p(x_m | x_{m-1}, \mu) p(\mu)$$

Tying of parameters



Parameterized Conditional Distributions

- Use parameterized models to control the exponential growth in the number of parameters in models of discrete variables.



If x_1, \dots, x_M are discrete,
K-state variables,
 $p(y=1|x_1, \dots, x_M)$ in general
has $\mathcal{O}(K^M)$ parameters.

The parameterized form using the sigmoid function

$$p(y=1|x_1, \dots, x_M) = \sigma\left(w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^M w_i x_i\right) = \sigma(w^T x), \sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-a}}$$

requires only $M + 1$ parameters!

Linear-Gaussian Models

- Consider an arbitrary directed acyclic graph over D variables in which node i represents a Gaussian variable x_i . The mean is a linear combination of its parent nodes pa_i ,

$$p(x_i | \text{Pa}_i) = \mathcal{N}\left(x_i; \sum_{j \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{ij}x_j + b_i, v_i\right), \text{i.e. } x_i = \sum_{j \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{ij}x_j + b_i + \sqrt{v_i}\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i] = 0, \mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j] = I_{ij}$$

- Note that the joint distribution $p(\mathbf{x})$ is Gaussian:

$$\ln p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^D \ln p(x_i | \text{Pa}_i) = \sum_{i=1}^D \frac{1}{2v_i} \left(x_i - \sum_{j \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{ij}x_j - b_i \right)^2 + \text{const.}$$

- We can *compute the mean and covariance of $p(\mathbf{x})$ recursively.*

$$\mathbb{E}[x_i] = \sum_{j \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{ij} \mathbb{E}[x_j] + b_i \Rightarrow \quad \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = (\mathbb{E}[x_1], \dots, \mathbb{E}[x_D])^T$$

$$\text{cov}[x_i, x_j] = \sum_{k \in \text{Pa}_j} w_{jk} \text{cov}[x_i, x_k] + I_{ij} \sqrt{v_i v_j}$$

- Roweis, S. and Z. Ghahramani (1999). [A unifying review of linear Gaussian models](#). *Neural Computation* 11(2), 305–345.



Linear-Gaussian Models

- Note the covariance matrix for x_i and x_j (*assume $i \leq j$*)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}[x_i, x_j] &= \mathbb{E}[(x_i - \mathbb{E}[x_i])(x_j - \mathbb{E}[x_j])] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[(x_i - \mathbb{E}[x_i])\left\{\sum_{k \in \text{Pa}_j} w_{jk} (x_k - \mathbb{E}[x_k]) + \sqrt{v_j} \varepsilon_j\right\}\right] = \sum_{k \in \text{Pa}_j} w_{jk} \text{cov}[x_i, x_k] + I_{ij} v_j\end{aligned}$$

- To show the 2nd term in the Eq. above, use recursively (until you reach the root node)

$$x_i - \mathbb{E}[x_i] = \sum_{m \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{im} (x_m - \mathbb{E}[x_m]) + \sqrt{v_i} \varepsilon_i = \sum_{m \in \text{Pa}_i} w_{im} \left(\sum_{n \in \text{Pa}_m} w_{mn} (x_n - \mathbb{E}[x_n]) + \sqrt{v_m} \varepsilon_m \right) + \sqrt{v_i} \varepsilon_i$$

and apply $\mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j] = I_{ij}$, $\mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_m \varepsilon_j] = 0$ for $m < i$

- The covariance can be computed recursively starting from the lowest number node.

- Roweis, S. and Z. Ghahramani (1999). [A unifying review of linear Gaussian models](#). *Neural Computation* 11(2), 305–345.



Linear-Gaussian Models

- For D -isolated (no links) nodes, the number of independent parameters in the model are (no w_{ij} in this model):

$$\underbrace{D}_{\text{parameters } b_i} + \underbrace{D}_{\text{parameters } v_i} = 2D$$

The mean of $p(x)$ is $(b_1, \dots, b_D)^T$ & the variance $\text{diag}(v_1, \dots, v_D)$.

- For a fully connected graph in which each node has all lower numbered nodes as parents, the number of parameters is:

$$\underbrace{\frac{D^2 - D}{2}}_{\substack{\text{parameters } w_{ij} \\ (\text{lower triangle matrix})}} + \underbrace{D}_{\text{parameters } v_i} = \frac{D(D+1)}{2}$$

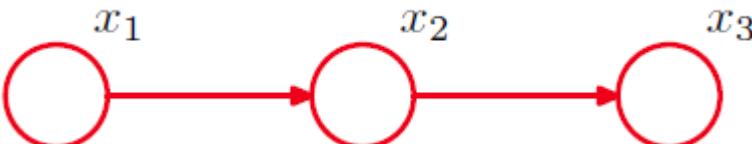
- Note that this is the same number of parameters as for a symmetric covariance matrix!

- Roweis, S. and Z. Ghahramani (1999). [A unifying review of linear Gaussian models](#). *Neural Computation* 11(2), 305–345.



Linear-Gaussian Models

- Intermediate levels of complexity can be obtained by making simplifications on the graph. For example, in the graph shown (missing link between nodes x_1 and x_3):


$$\mathbb{E}[x] = (b_1, b_2 + w_{21}b_1, b_3 + w_{32}b_2 + w_{32}w_{21}b_1)^T$$
$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & w_{21}v_1 & w_{32}w_{21}v_1 \\ w_{21}v_1 & v_2 + w_{21}^2v_1 & w_{32}(v_2 + w_{21}^2v_1) \\ w_{32}w_{21}v_1 & w_{32}(v_2 + w_{21}^2v_1) & v_3 + w_{32}^2(v_2 + w_{21}^2v_1) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}[x_1, x_3] &= \sum_{k \in \{2\}} w_{jk} \text{cov}[x_1, x_k] + I_{13}v_3 \\ &= w_{32} \text{cov}[x_1, x_2] = w_{32} (w_{21} \text{cov}[x_1, x_1] + I_{12}v_2) = w_{32}w_{21}v_1\end{aligned}$$

- Roweis, S. and Z. Ghahramani (1999). [A unifying review of linear Gaussian models](#). *Neural Computation* 11(2), 305–345.

Linear-Gaussian Models

- One can extend these calculations to vector-valued Gaussian nodes.

$$p(\mathbf{x}_i | \text{Pa}_i) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_i; \sum_{j \in \text{Pa}_i} \mathbf{W}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{b}_i, \Sigma_i\right)$$

- The joint distribution is again a Gaussian.

- Roweis, S. and Z. Ghahramani (1999). [A unifying review of linear Gaussian models](#). *Neural Computation* 11(2), 305–345.



Directed Gaussian Graphical Models

- Return to the DGM with real-valued variables & CPDs of the form:

$$p(x_t | \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)}) = \mathcal{N}(x_t | b_t + \mathbf{w}_t^T \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)}, \sigma_t^2)$$

- This is a **linear Gaussian** CPD. Multiplying all these CPDs together results in a joint Gaussian $p(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. This is a directed GGM.
- Let us derive $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ from the CPD parameters with an easier approach.

Subtract the means $\mu_t = \mathbb{E}[x_t] = \sum_{j \in Pa_i} w_{tj} \mathbb{E}[x_j] + b_t$, and write:

$$x_t = \mu_t + \sum_{s \in pa(t)} w_{ts} (x_s - \mu_s) + \sigma_t z_t \text{ where } z_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1),$$

- σ_t is the conditional standard deviation of x_t given its parents, w_{ts} is the strength of the $s \rightarrow t$ edge, and μ_t is the mean.
- The global mean $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_D)$ is derived from the recursive relation shown [earlier](#). We now derive the global covariance, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.
- Let $\mathbf{S} = \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ be a diagonal matrix containing the standard deviations. We rewrite the Eq. above in matrix-vector form as:

$$\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) + \mathbf{Sz}$$

- Shachter, R. and C. R. Kenley (1989). [Gaussian influence diagrams](#). *Management Science* 35(5), 527–550 (App. B)



Directed Gaussian Graphical Models

- Now let \mathbf{e} be the vector of noise terms: $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{Sz}$, where $\mathbf{S} = \text{diag}(\sigma)$
- We can rearrange $\mathbf{x} - \mu = \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x} - \mu) + \mathbf{Sz}$ to get $\mathbf{e} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W})(\mathbf{x} - \mu)$
- Since \mathbf{W} is lower triangular ($w_{ts} = 0$ if $t > s$ in the topological ordering), $\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W}$ is lower triangular with 1's on the diagonal. Hence

$$\begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \\ e_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ -w_{21} & 1 & & & \\ -w_{32} & -w_{31} & 1 & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -w_{d1} & -w_{d2} & & -w_{d,d-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 - \mu_1 \\ x_2 - \mu_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_d - \mu_d \end{pmatrix}$$

- Since $\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W}$ is always invertible, we can write $\mathbf{x} - \mu = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W})^{-1} \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{Ue}$ = \mathbf{USz} where we defined $\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W})^{-1}$. Thus the regression weights (via \mathbf{U}) are connected to the Cholesky decomposition of Σ :

$$\Sigma = \text{cov}[\mathbf{x}] = \text{cov}[\mathbf{x} - \mu] = \text{cov}[\mathbf{USz}] = \mathbf{US} \text{ cov} [\mathbf{z}] \mathbf{SU}^T = \mathbf{US}^2 \mathbf{U}^T$$



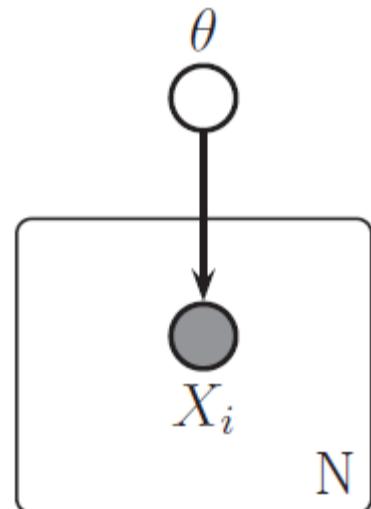
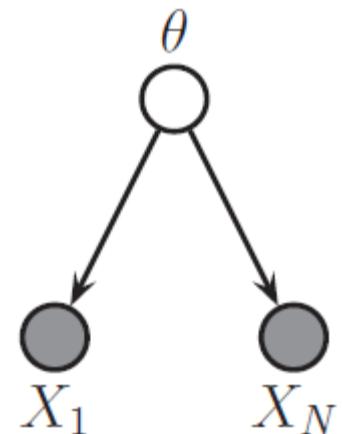
Plate Notation

- When inferring θ from data, we assume the data is iid (but generated from the same distribution). This is represented with the GM shown here.

- The data cases are independent conditional on the parameters θ ; however, marginally the data cases are dependent.*

- The data is exchangeable:* the order in which the data arrive makes no difference to our beliefs about θ : all data orderings result in the same sufficient statistics.

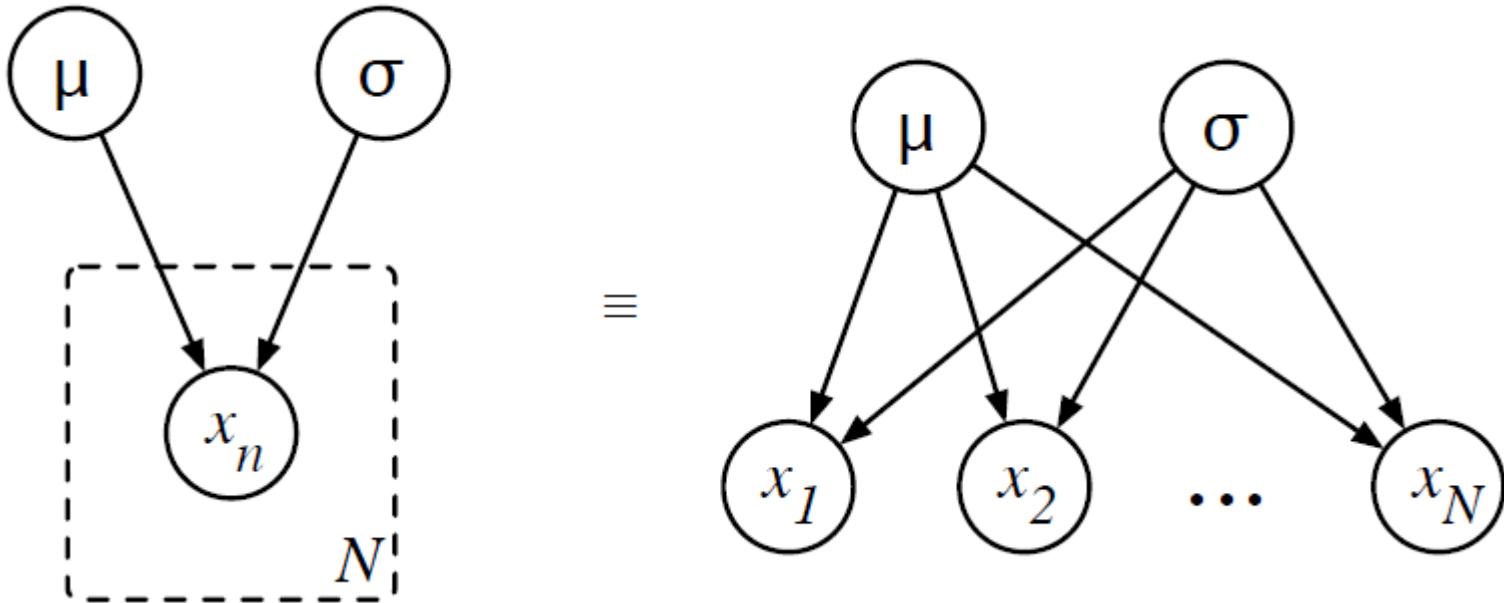
- It is common to use a plate notation as shown:
 - draw a box around the repeated variables
 - nodes within the box get repeated when the model is **unrolled**.
 - write the number of copies in the bottom right corner.



$$p(\theta, \mathcal{D}) = p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i | \theta)$$

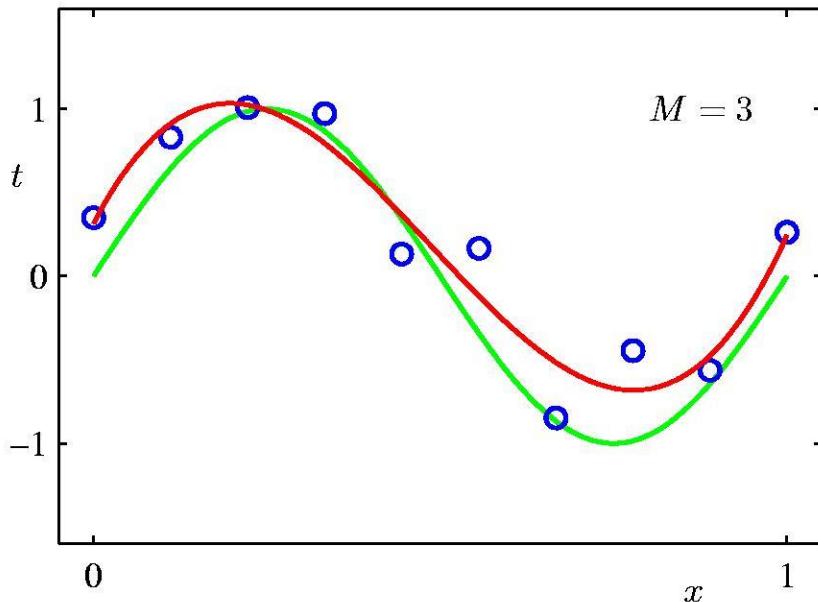
Plate Notation

- Representation of N points generated from a Gaussian



$$p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N, \mu, \sigma) = p(\mu) p(\sigma) \prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n | \mu, \sigma)$$

Example: Polynomial Regression



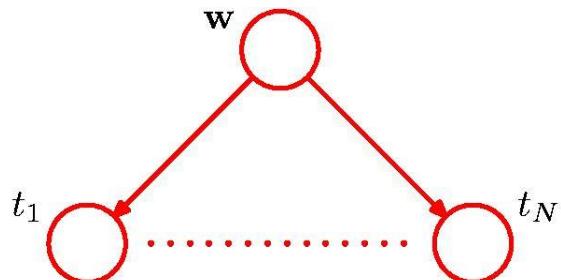
Polynomial regression

$$t = y(x, w) = \sum_{i=0}^M w_i x^i$$

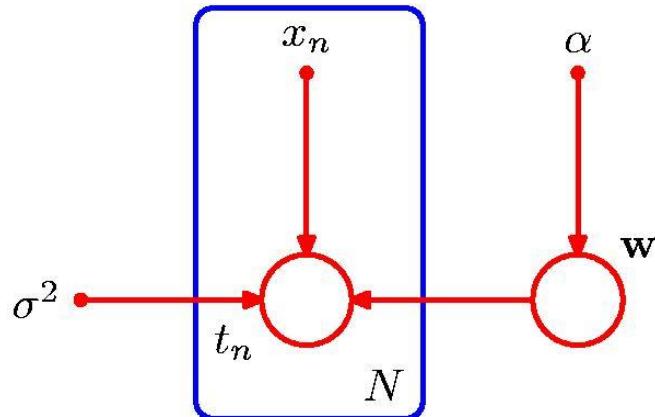
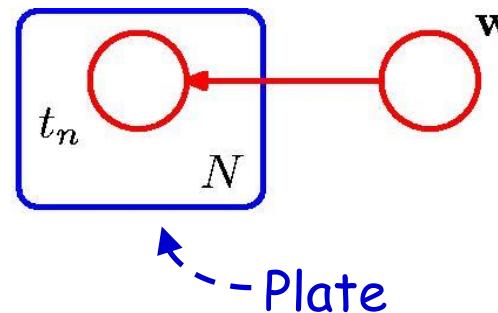
$$p(t, w) = p(w) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | w)$$

Example: Polynomial Regression

- Graphical model for the polynomial regression (left). A more compact graphical representation using plate for the polynomial regression (right)



$$p(t, w) = p(w) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | w)$$

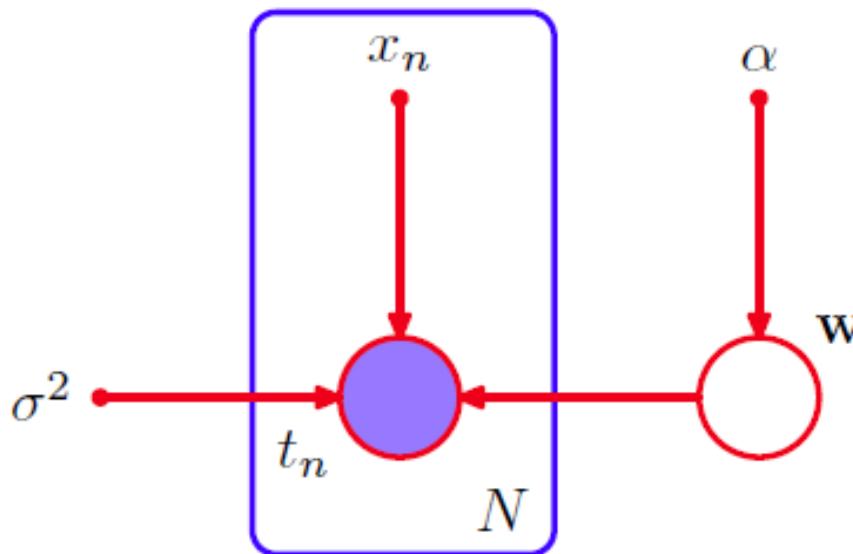


Express the model in an explicit form:

$$p(t, w | x, \alpha, \sigma^2) = p(w | \alpha) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | w, x_n, \sigma^2)$$

Example: Polynomial Regression

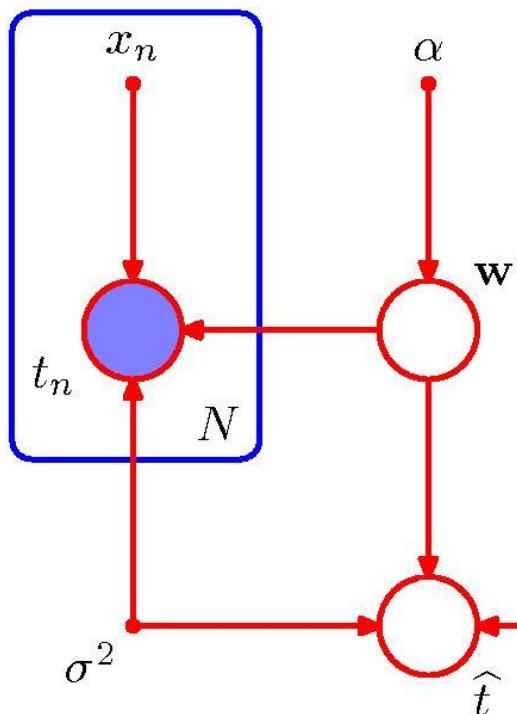
- Evidence nodes are shaded (observed values). For our regression problem this is shown as follows:
- w is an example of a latent variable (unobserved)



$$p(t, w | x, \alpha, \sigma^2) = p(w | \alpha) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | w, x_n, \sigma^2)$$

Example: Polynomial Regression

- In Bayesian regression, our goal is to make predictions for new input values.



Predictive distribution:

$$p(\hat{t} | x, \mathbf{x}, t, \alpha, \sigma^2) \propto \int p(\hat{t}, t, w | x, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) dw$$

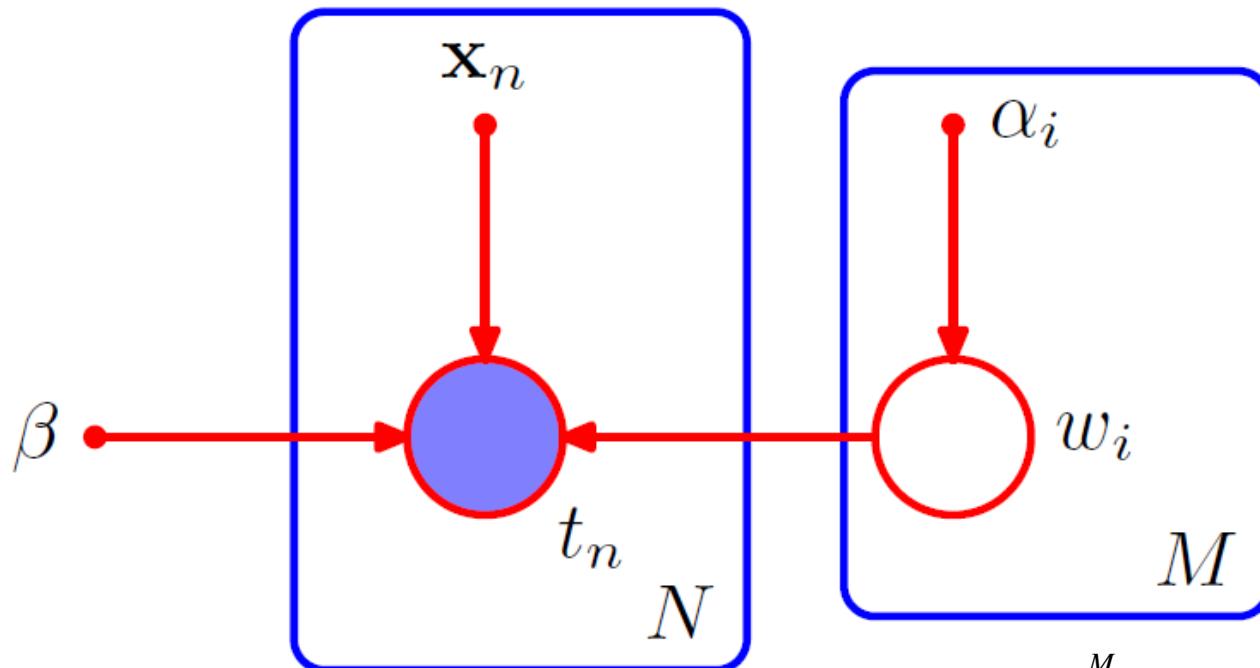
where

$$p(\hat{t}, t, w | x, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) =$$

$$\left[\prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | w, x_n, \sigma^2) \right] p(w | \alpha) p(\hat{t} | x, w, \sigma^2)$$

Example: Relevance Vector Machine

- Recall the RVM (relevance vector machine) framework for regression.
- The graphical model is shown below.

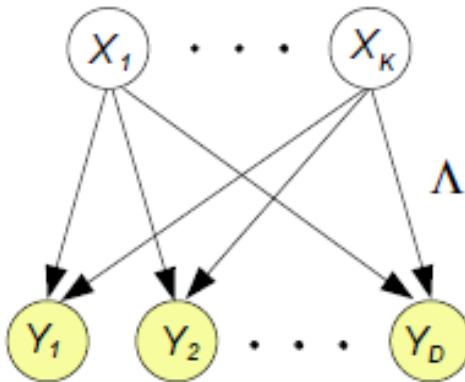


$$p(t|X, w, \beta) = \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | x_n, w, \beta)$$

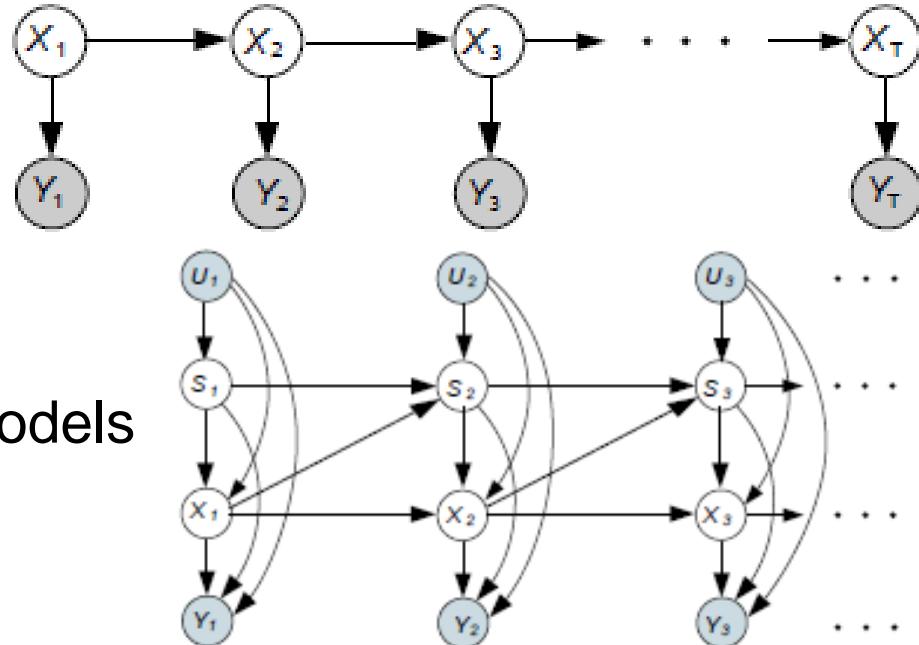
$$p(w|\alpha) = \prod_{i=1}^M p(w_i | 0, \alpha_i^{-1})$$

State Space Models

- Probabilistic Principal Component Analysis (PCA)



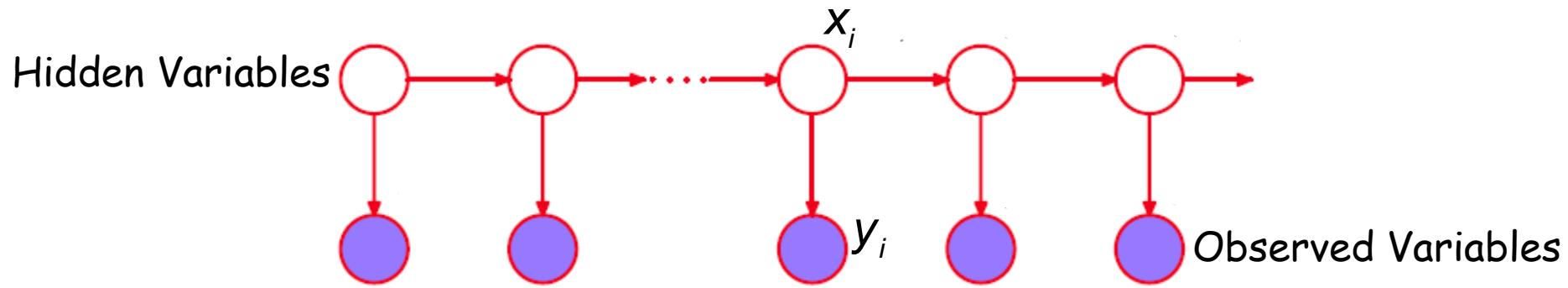
- Hidden Markov Models



- Switching State-Space Models

Example in State Space Models

- Consider a Hidden Markov Model (discrete states) or a Gaussian Filter (linear Gaussian Model)

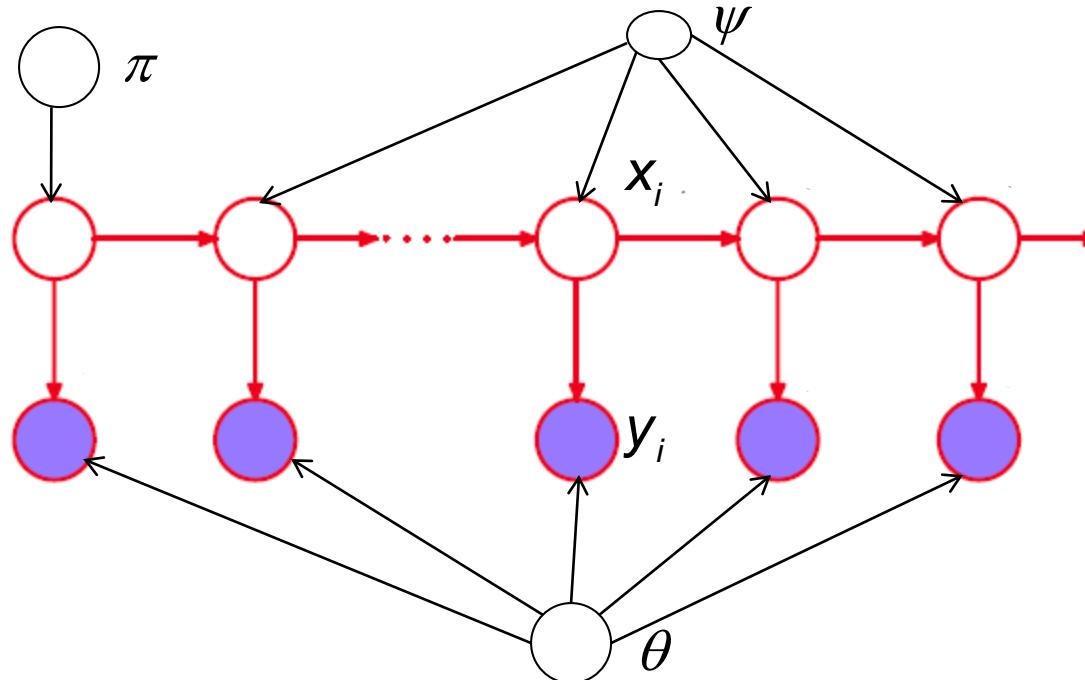


$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = p(x_1)p(y_1 | x_1)p(x_2 | x_1) \dots p(x_i | x_{i-1})p(y_i | x_i) \dots$$

- For linear Gaussian model for the conditional distributions, i.e. $p(x | z) = \mathcal{N}(Az + b, \Sigma)$ the model is a Kalman Filter. In this case, the joint distribution over all variables is also a highly structured Gaussian.

Example: Bayesian State Space Models

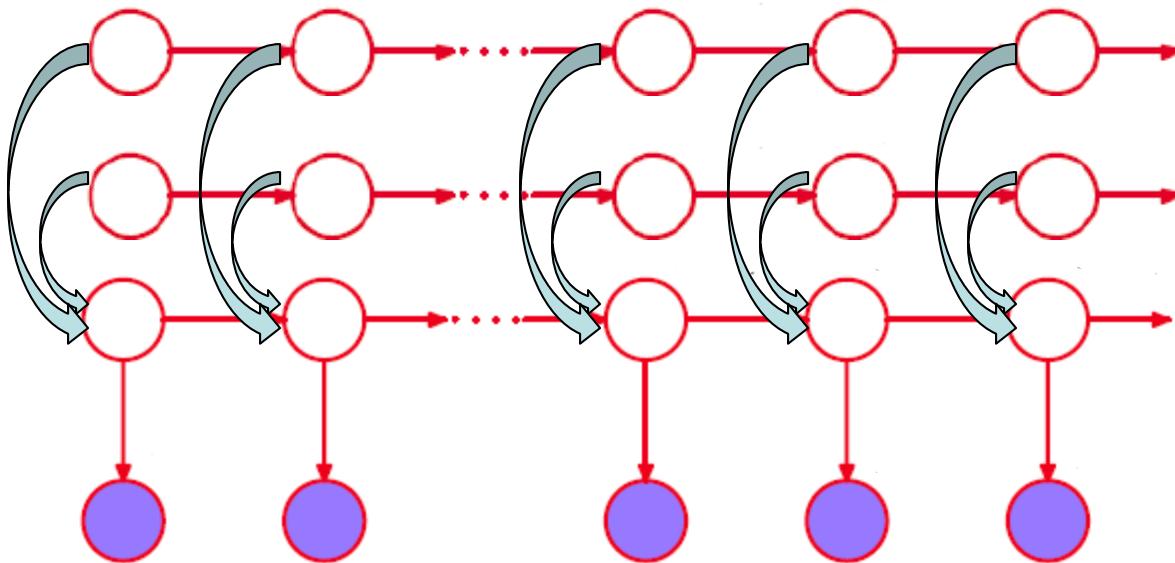
- Introduce a prior for x_1 , and parametric models (parameters θ and ψ - each with its own prior – are the same for all models):



- In this graph we have loops (not like the tree structure of the HMM model shown earlier). This makes approximate (rather than exact) inference the only option.

Example: Factorial State Space Model

- Consider multiple Hidden Sequences (if each state has m configurations, then a total of m^3 configurations at each time step)

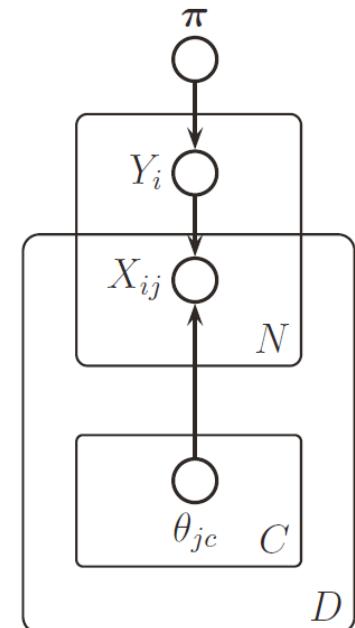
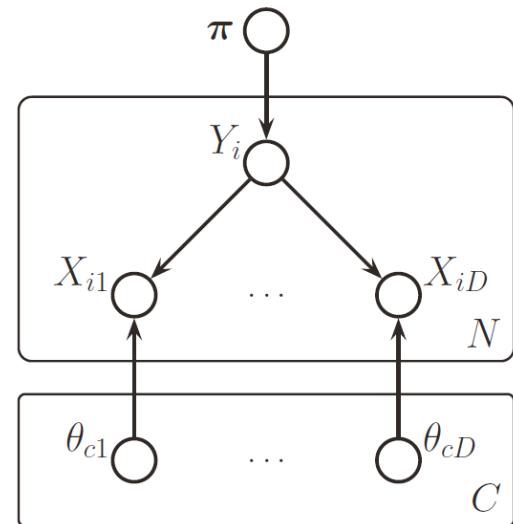


- This model is more tractable than a single hidden chain with m^3 configurations at each time.

Context Specific Independence

- On the right a naive Bayes classifier has been unrolled for D features and uses a plate notation over data $i = 1 : N$. The Fig. on the bottom right shows a *nested plate* notation for the same model.
- A variable is inside two plates has two sub-indices (e.g. θ_{jc} is the parameter for feature j in class-conditional density c).
- Note that *plates can be nested or crossing*.
- Note that θ_{jc} is used to generate x_{ij} iff $y_i = c$, otherwise it is ignored (this is certainly not clear from the nested notation).
- This is context specific independence, since the CI $x_{ij} \perp \theta_{jc}$ only holds if $y_i \neq c$.

- Heckerman, D., C. Meek, and D. Koller (2004). [Probabilistic models for relational data](#). Technical Report MSR-TR-2004-30, Microsoft Research.



Learning from Complete Data

- If all the variables are fully observed in each data case (no missing data and no hidden variables) we say the data is complete.
- For a DGM with complete data, the likelihood is given by

$$p(\mathcal{D} | \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i | \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=1}^V p(x_{it} | \mathbf{x}_{i,pa(t)}, \theta_t) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(\mathcal{D}_t | \theta_t)$$

- \mathcal{D}_t is the data associated with node t and its parents (t 'th family). This is a *product of terms, one per CPD*. **The likelihood decomposes according to the graph structure.**
- Assume a prior that factorizes as well: $p(\theta) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(\theta_t)$
- Then clearly *the posterior also factorizes*:

$$p(\theta | \mathcal{D}) \propto p(\mathcal{D} | \theta) p(\theta) = \prod_{t=1}^V p(\mathcal{D}_t | \theta_t) p(\theta_t)$$

- Thus we **can compute the posterior of each CPD independently**. More details will be provided in a forthcoming lecture.



Learning from Complete Data

- As an example consider that all CPDs are tabular. We have a separate row (i.e., a separate multinoulli distribution) for each conditioning case.
- The t'th CPT is $x_t | \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)} = c \sim \text{Cat } \theta_{tc}$, where $\sum_k \theta_{tck} = 1$ with:
$$\theta_{tck} = p(x_t = k | \mathbf{x}_{pa(t)} = c), k = 1 : K_t, c = 1 : C_t, t = 1 : T \text{ with } C_t = \prod_{s \in pa(t)} K_s$$
- Assume a separate Dirichlet prior on each row of each CPT, i.e., $\Theta_{tc} \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_{tc})$. We can compute the posterior by simply adding the pseudo counts to the empirical counts $\Theta_{tc} / \mathcal{D} \sim \text{Dir}(N_{tck} + \alpha_{tc})$, where N_{tck} is the number of times that node t is in state k while its parents are in state c :

$$N_{tck} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(x_{i,t} = k, x_{i,pa(t)} = c)$$

- The mean of this distribution is given by the following:

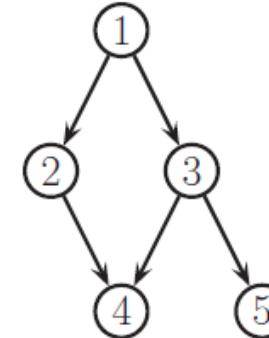
$$\bar{\theta}_{tck} = \frac{N_{tck} + \alpha_{tck}}{\sum_{k'} N_{tck'} + \alpha_{tck'}}$$



Learning from Complete Data

- Consider the DGM shown, Suppose the training data is:

x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5
0	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1	1
1	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	0
0	1	1	1	0



- Below we list all the sufficient statistics N_{tck} , and *the posterior mean parameters $\bar{\theta}_{tck}$ under a Dirichlet prior with $\alpha_{tck} = 1$ (add-one smoothing) for the $t = 4$ node:*

x_2	x_3	$N_{tck=1}$	$N_{tck=0}$	$\bar{\theta}_{tck=1}$	$\bar{\theta}_{tck=0}$
0	0	0	0	1/2	1/2
1	0	1	0	2/3	1/3
0	1	0	1	1/3	2/3
1	1	2	1	3/5	2/5

- The *MLE* has the same form without the α_{tck} terms:
- The MLE suffers from the zero-count problem so it is important to use a prior.

$$\hat{\theta}_{tck} = \frac{N_{tck}}{\sum_k N_{tck}}$$

Influence Decision Diagrams

- We represent multi-stage decision problems using *decision (influence) diagrams*.^{1,2}
- We extend directed graphical models by adding **decision (action) nodes** (rectangles), and **utility (value) nodes** (diamonds). The original random variables (**chance nodes**) represented as ovals.
- In the example shown, we decide whether to drill an oil well or not.

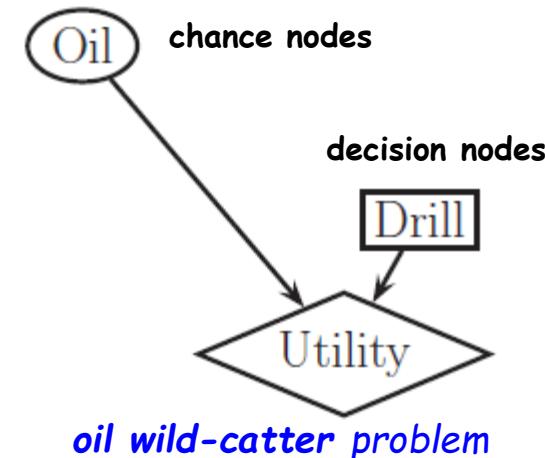
d = 1 means drill, d = 0 means don't drill

- There are 3 states of nature:

*o = 0 the well is dry, o = 1 it is wet (has some oil), and
o = 2 it is soaking (has a lot of oil)*

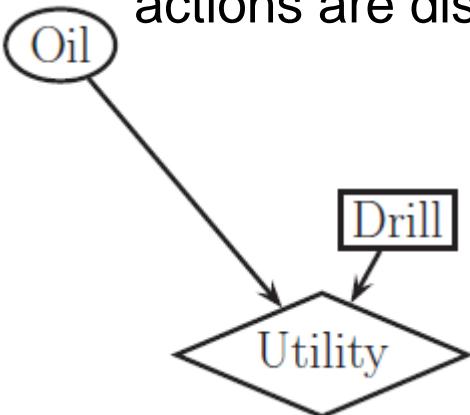
- Our *prior beliefs* are $p(o) = [0.5, 0.3, 0.2]$.

- Howard, R. and J. Matheson (1981). [Influence diagrams](#). In R. Howard and J. Matheson (Eds.), *Readings on the Principles and Applications of Decision Analysis*, volume II. Strategic Decisions Group.
- Kjaerulff, U. and A. Madsen (2008). [Bayesian Networks and Influence Diagrams: A Guide to Construction and Analysis](#). Springer
- Raiffa, H. (1968). [Decision Analysis](#). Addison Wesley.



Utility Function - Prior Expected Utility

- You must also specify *the utility function $U(d, o)$* . Since the states and actions are discrete, we can represent it as a table (in \$)



		Well: Dry, Wet, Soaking		
		$o = 0$	$o = 1$	$o = 2$
Don't drill	$d = 0$	0	0	0
	$d = 1$	-70	50	200

- The *prior expected utility if you drill* is given by

$$EU(d = 1) = \sum_{o=0}^2 p(o)U(d, o) = 0.5 \times (-70) + 0.3 \times 50 + 0.2 \times 200 = 20$$

- The prior expected utility if you don't drill is 0. So the *max prior expected utility is*

$$MEU = \max\{EU(d = 0), EU(d = 1)\} = \max\{0, 20\} = 20$$

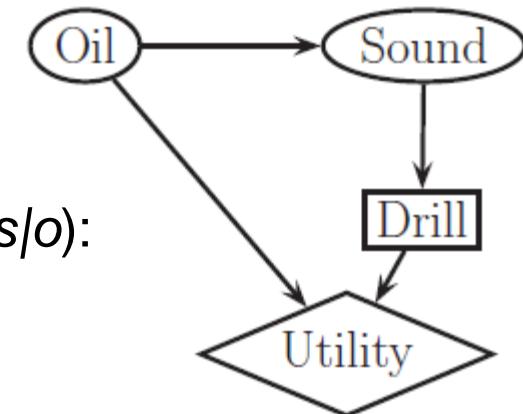
and therefore the optimal action is to drill:

$$d^* = \operatorname{argmax}\{EU(d = 0), EU(d = 1)\} = 1$$

Reliability of the Sound Test

- Now suppose you perform a sound test to estimate the state of the well. This leads to 3 possible states:
 - $s = 0$ is a diffuse reflection pattern (no oil)
 - $s = 1$ is an open reflection pattern, (some oil)
 - $s = 2$ is a closed reflection pattern (lots of oil)
- Since **S is caused by O**, we add an $O \rightarrow S$ arc to our model.
- We also add an **information arc** from S to D since *the sound test will affect our decisions*.
- Consider the following conditional distribution for $p(s/o)$:

		$s = 0$	$s = 1$	$s = 2$
		0.6	0.3	0.1
reliability of the sound test	0	0.6	0.3	0.1
	1	0.3	0.4	0.3
	2	0.1	0.4	0.5



- Suppose we do the test and observe $s = 0$. *The posterior over the oil state* is $p(o/s = 0) = [0.732, 0.219, 0.049]$

Posterior Expected Utility, Optimal Policy

- The *posterior expected utility of performing action d* is

$$EU(d \mid s = 0) = \sum_{o=0}^2 p(o \mid s = 0)U(d, o)$$

$$EU(d = 1 \mid s = 0) = 0.732 \times (-70) + 0.219 \times 50 + 0.049 \times 200 = -30.5$$

- However $EU(d = 0 \mid s = 0) = 0$, since not drilling incurs no cost. So *if we observe $s = 0$, we are better off not drilling.*
- Suppose we observe $s = 1$: $EU(d = 1 \mid s = 1) = 32.9 > EU(d = 0 \mid s = 1) = 0$
- Similarly, $EU(d = 1 \mid s = 2) = 87.5 >> EU(d = 0 \mid s = 2) = 0$.
- Hence the optimal policy $d^*(s)$ is as follows:
 - if $s = 0$, $d^*(0) = 0$ and get \$0;
 - if $s = 1$, $d^*(1) = 1$ and get \$32.9; and
 - if $s = 2$, $d^*(2) = 1$ and get \$87.5.



Maximum Expected Utility

- Let us consider now different outcomes of the sound test and act optimally on each of them.
- We can then compute the **expected profit or maximum expected utility**

$$MEU = \sum_{s=0}^2 p(s)EU(d*(s) | s), p(s) = \sum_o p(o)p(s|o) = [0.41, 0.35, 0.24]$$

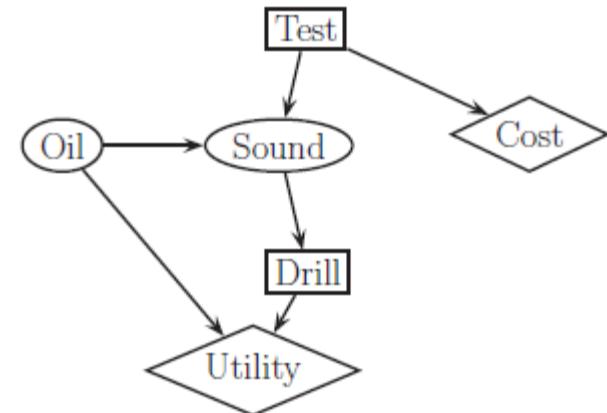
- $p(s)$ here is the prior marginal on the outcome of the test.
- Hence the maximum expected utility if we do the test is

$$MEU = 0.41 \times 0 + 0.35 \times 32.9 + 0.24 \times 87.5 = 32.2$$



Accounting for the Cost of the Test

- Now suppose we can choose whether to do the test or not. A modified decision diagram is introduced with a test node T .
- If $T = 1$, we do the test, and S can enter 1 of 3 states, determined by O , exactly as above. If $T = 0$, we don't do the test, and S enters a special unknown state.
- There is also some cost associated with performing the test.
- Is it worth doing the test? This depends on how much our MEU changes if we know the outcome of the test (namely the state of S).
- If you don't do the test, we have $MEU = 20$ (prior expected utility). If you do the test, you have $MEU = 32.2$. So the improvement in utility if you do the test (and act optimally on its outcome) is \$12.2 (value of perfect information, VPI).
- **DO THE TEST IF IT COSTS LESS THAN \$12.2.**



Value of Perfect Information

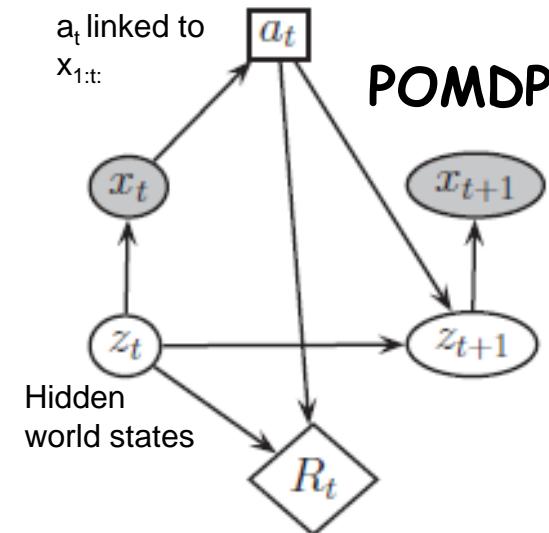
- $VPI(T) = \text{MEU}(I + T \rightarrow D) - \text{MEU}(I)$
 - where D is the decision node
 - T is the variable we are measuring
 - I is the base influence diagram
- One can modify the variable elimination algorithm (to be discussed in a follow up lecture) so that it computes the optimal policy given an influence diagram.
- These methods essentially work backwards from the final time-step, computing the optimal decision at each step assuming all following actions are chosen optimally.^{1,2}

- Kjaerulff, U. and A. Madsen (2008). [*Bayesian Networks and Influence Diagrams: A Guide to Construction and Analysis.*](#) Springer
- Lauritzen, S. and D. Nilsson (2001). [*Representing and solving decision problems with limited information.*](#) *Management Science* 47, 1238–1251.



Partially Observed Markov Decision Process (POM-D-P)

- We could continue to extend the model in various ways. E.g., consider a dynamical system in which we test, observe outcomes, perform actions, move on to the next oil well, and continue drilling in this way.
- Many problems in robotics, business, medicine, can be usefully formulated as influence unrolled over time.^{1,2,3}
- This is known as a *partially observed Markov Process (POMDP, “pom-d-p”)*.



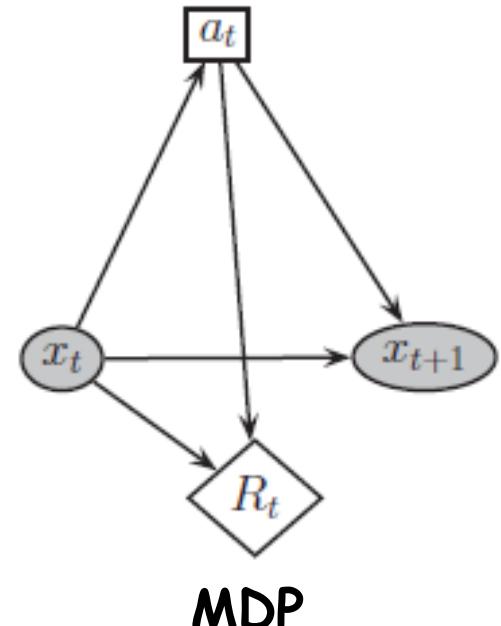
- *This is an HMM augmented with action and reward nodes.* Can model the *perception-action* cycle that all intelligent agents use.⁴

1. [Raiffa, H. \(1968\). *Decision Analysis*.](#) Addison Wesley.
2. Lauritzen, S. and D. Nilsson (2001). [Representing and solving decision problems with limited information.](#) *Management Science* 47, 1238–1251.
3. Kjaerulff, U. and A. Madsen (2008). [Bayesian Networks and Influence Diagrams: A Guide to Construction and Analysis.](#) Springer
4. Kaelbling, L. P., M. Littman, and A. Cassandra (1998). [Planning and acting in partially observable stochastic domains.](#) *Artificial Intelligence* 101.



Markov Decision Process

- ❑ A special case of a POMDP, in which **the states are fully observed**, is called a *Markov Decision Process or MDP*.
- ❑ This is easier to solve, since we only *need to compute a mapping from observed states to actions* using dynamic programming.
- ❑ In the POMDP case, the information arc from x_t to a_t is not sufficient to uniquely determine the best action, since the state is not fully observed.
- ❑ Instead, we need to choose actions based on our *belief state*, $p(z_t|x_{1:t}, a_{1:t})$. Since the belief updating process is deterministic, we can compute a *belief state MDP*.

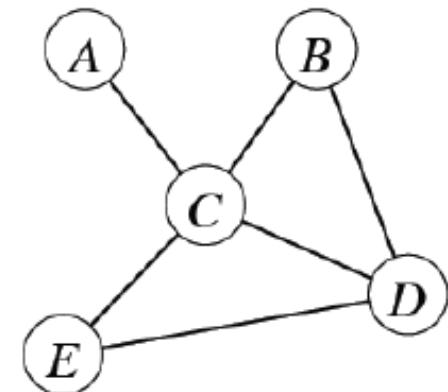


- Sutton, R. and A. Barto (1998). *Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction*. MIT Press.
- Kaelbling, L. P., M. Littman, and A. Cassandra (1998). *Planning and acting in partially observable stochastic domains*. *Artificial Intelligence* 101.
- Spaan, M. and N. Vlassis (2005). *Perseus: Randomized Point-based Value Iteration for POMDPs*. *J. of AI Research* 24, 195–220.

Representation, Inference & Learning

Representation

- Undirected graphical models
- Markov properties of graphs



Inference

- Models with discrete hidden nodes
 - ✓ Exact (e.g., forwards backwards for HMMs)
 - ✓ Approximate (e.g., loopy belief propagation)
- Models with continuous hidden nodes
 - ✓ Exact (e.g., Kalman filtering)
 - ✓ Approximate (e.g., sampling)

Learning

- Parameters (e.g., EM)
- Structure (e.g., structural EM, causality)