

# Improving Mixing Time in Gibbs Sampling

Samy

MLD Journal Club

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From Fields to Trees

Hamze, de Freitas 2004

Covariance Structure of the Gibbs Sampler ...

Liu, Wong, Kong 1994

Markov Chain Strategies in Scientific Computing

Jun Liu, 2001

# The Problem

Given: Graphical Model with known Parameters.

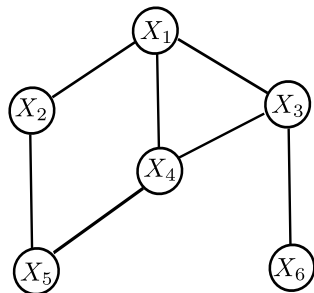
**Goal:** Estimate  $\mathbb{E}[h(X)]$

E.g.:  $\mathbb{1}_A(x)$ ,  $\sum_i X_i$

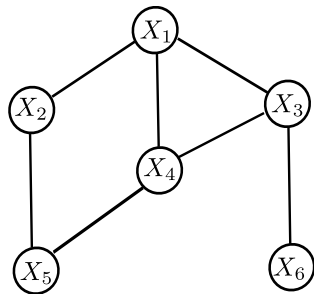
Generate Samples:  $X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(N)}$

Empirical Estimator

$$\mu_0 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N h(X^{(i)})$$



# Gibbs Sampling



Current Sample:  $X^{(t)}$

$$X_1^{(t+1)} \mid X_{2,3,4,5,6}^{(t)}$$

$$X_2^{(t+1)} \mid X_1^{(t+1)}, X_{3,4,5,6}^{(t)}$$

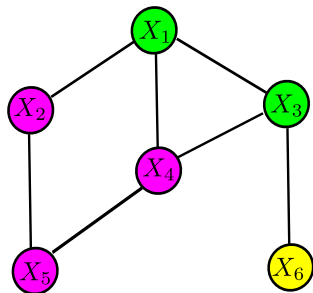
...

$$X_6^{(t+1)} \mid X_{1,2,3,4,5}^{(t+1)}$$

Next Sample:  $X^{(t+1)}$

$X^{(1)} \rightarrow X^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots$  is a Markov Chain with eqib<sup>m</sup> distribution  $P$ .

# Blocked Gibbs Sampling



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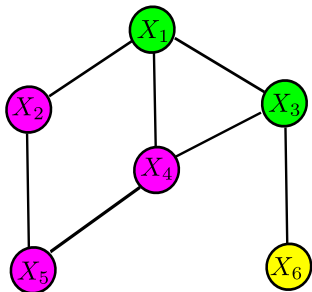
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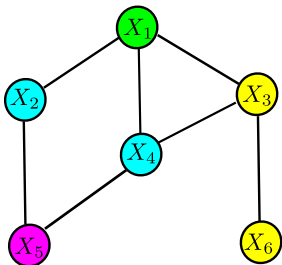
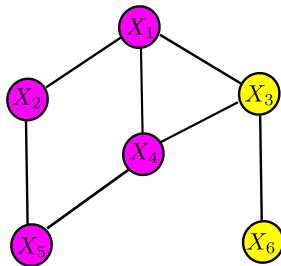
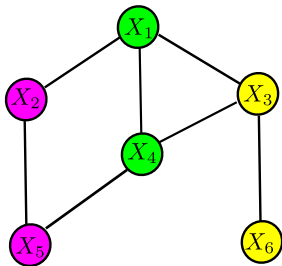


Why Blocked Gibbs ?

Sampling from conditional distribution is difficult.

BUT, Chain mixes faster  
 $\Rightarrow$  better samples.

# How to Block (Partition) the Variables?



# Outline

- 1 Digression
  - MCMC Theory
  - Rao-Blackwellisation
- 2 Primary Idea
  - Tree Partitions
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$$X^{(1)} \rightarrow X^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X^{(t)} \rightarrow X^{(t+1)} \rightarrow \dots$$

$\pi \leftarrow$  Equilibrium Distribution

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$$L_0(\pi) = \{h : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{E}_\pi h(X) = 0, \quad \mathbb{V}_\pi h(X) < \infty\}$$

$$\langle h, g \rangle = \text{Covar}_\pi(h(X), g(X))$$

$(L_0(\pi), \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  is a Hilbert Space.

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$$\|h\|^2 = \langle h, h \rangle = \text{Covar}_\pi(h(X), h(X)) = \mathbb{V}_\pi(h(X))$$

## Forward Operator

Define  $F : L_0(\pi) \rightarrow L_0(\pi)$ ,  $[Fh](z) = \mathbb{E}[h(X^{(1)}) | X^{(0)} = z]$

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If MC is reversible,  $F$  is self-adjoint  $\implies \|F^n\| = \|F\|^n$ .

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$$|\mathbb{E}^{(n)} h(X) - \mathbb{E}_{\pi} h(X)| \leq C \|F\|^n \|h\|.$$

# Convergence of a MC

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Finite State space:  $\|F\| \equiv 2^{\text{nd}}$  eigval of Transition Matrix.

$(X, Y) \sim P$ . Samples:  
 $\{(X^{(1)}, Y^{(1)}), (X^{(2)}, Y^{(2)}), \dots (X^{(N)}, Y^{(N)})\}$

**Goal:** Estimate  $\mathbb{E}_P[h(X)]$

Empirical Estimator  $\mu_0 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N h(X^{(i)})$

Rao-Blackwellised Estimator  $\mu_{rb} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[ h(X) | Y^{(i)} \right]$

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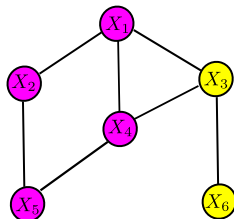
2-Stage Gibbs: RB Estimator is better (LKW 1994).

$$\mathbb{V}(\mu_0) - \mathbb{V}(\mu_{rb}) \leq \frac{\mathbb{V}(h(X))}{n^2} \left( n(1 - \|F\|) + 2(n-1)(\|F\| - \|F\|^2) \right. \\ \left. \dots + (\|F\|^{n-1} - \|F\|^n) \right)$$

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# Primary Idea



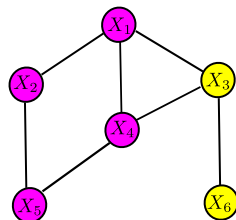
## Blocked Gibbs Sampler:

Correlated Partitions  $\implies$

Successive Samples Correlated  $\implies$

Large  $\|F\|$

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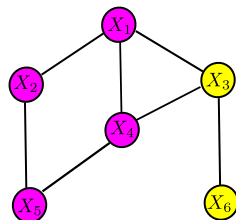
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Blocked Gibbs :  $\|F\|$  is determined by the partitions.

Partition the Graph so that  $\|F\|$  is small !



# Primary Idea



## Blocked Gibbs Sampler:

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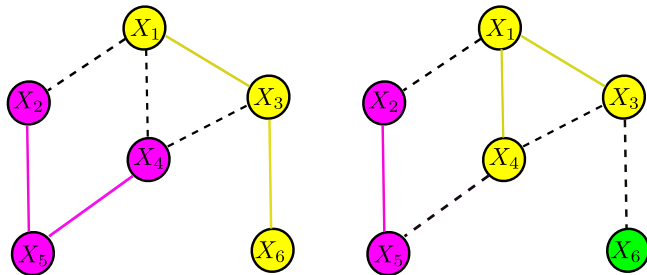
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Blocked Gibbs :  $\|F\|$  is determined by the partitions.

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**Is this the best strategy ?**

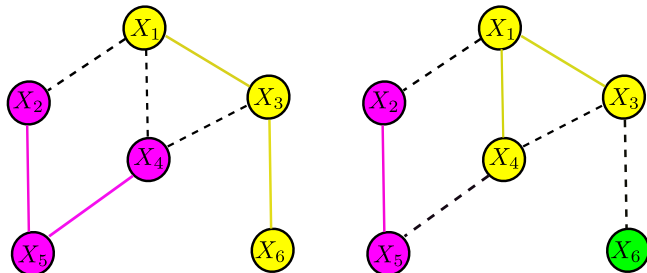
# Tree Partitions



Lets focus on Tree Partitions.

Computing conditional distribution on trees is easy.

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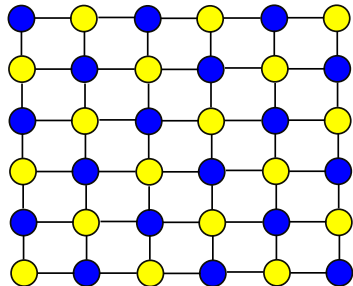
Computing conditional distribution on trees is easy.

Best Tree Partition ? Not easy.

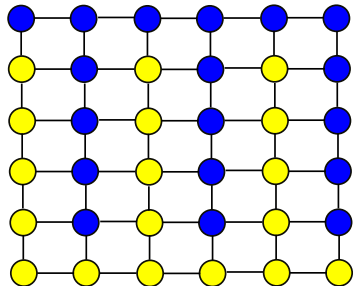
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# Grid Graph

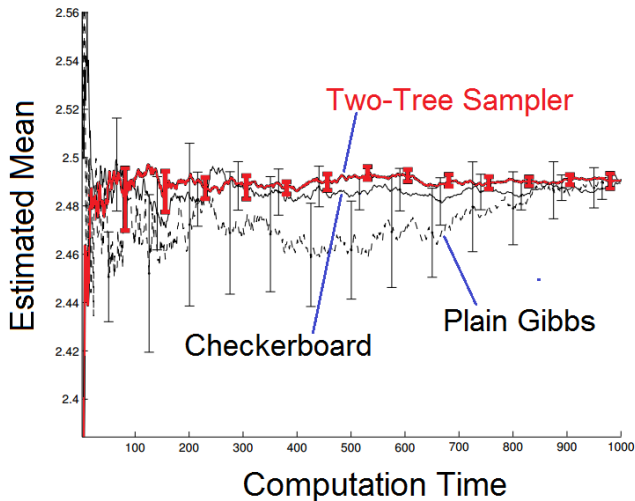


Checkerboard



Two-Trees

# Results

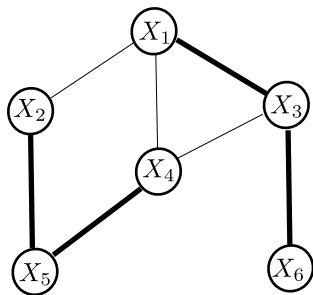


H/deF use a a Rao-Blackwellised Estimator.

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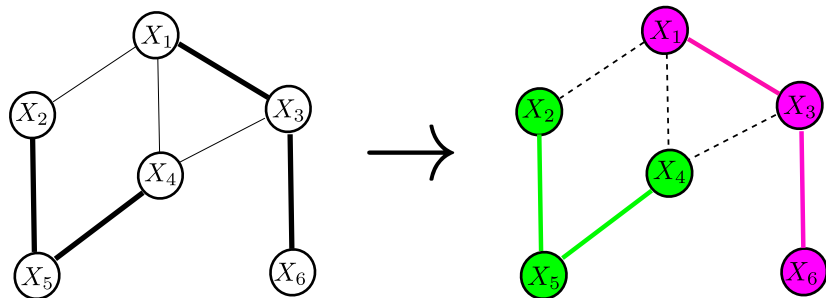
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Incorporate Correlations via Weights (thanks Geoff !)

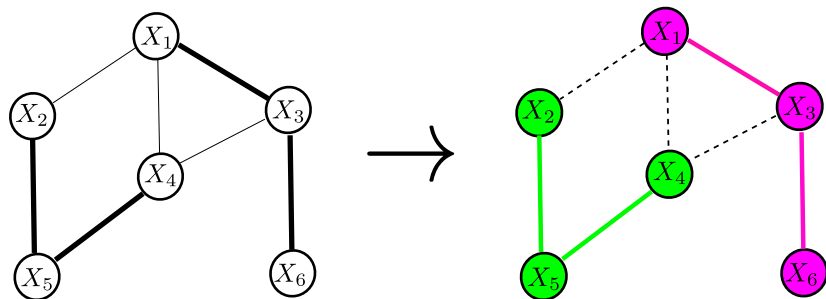




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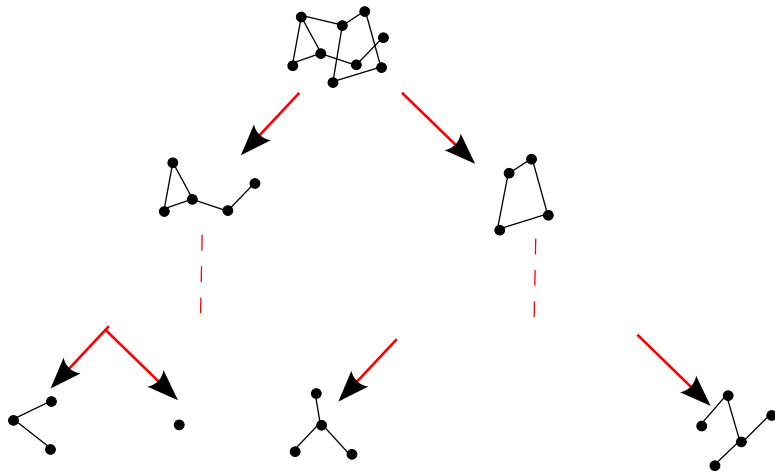


Incorporate Correlations via Weights (thanks Geoff !)



Partitioning into  $K$  trees is NP-Hard ☹ (credit: Elara W)

## Greedy Splitting & Recombination



## Questions

- 1 What measure of Correlation for Weights ?
- 2 How to Greedy Split ? (Min-Cut, N-Min-Cut, Max-Cut)  
How optimal is this ?
- 3 Guarantees about  $\|F\|$  ?
- 4 On what kind of graphs can we expect to win ?