

Abstract

Reichenbach's
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Bayesian AI

Bayesian Artificial Intelligence Introduction

IEEE Computational Intelligence Society
IEEE Computer Society

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Bayesian networks are the basis for a new generation of probabilistic expert systems, which allow for exact (and approximate) modelling of physical, biological and social systems operating under uncertainty. Bayesian networks are also an important representational tool for data mining, in causal discovery. Applications range across the sciences, industries and government organizations. At Monash University, Bayesian AI has been used for graphical expert systems for medical diagnosis and prognosis, in meteorological predication, environmental management, intelligent tutoring systems, epidemiology, poker and other applications. Norsys (www.norsys.com) list hundreds of additional applications of Bayesian AI. This talk will explain the basics of the technology, illustrate them with example Bayesian networks, and discuss the growth in the use of Bayesian networks in recent years. The technology is not only mature, but is becoming more widely accepted in major projects.

The Certainty of Uncertainty

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Sources of uncertainty:

World laws. Laws governing world (events) may be stochastic.

- Long tradition of ignoring this possibility
- This is hardly plausible in view of the probabilistic theories of: genetics, economics, physics, etc.

Inaccessibility. Operation of hidden variables makes relations btw observed variables stochastic.

Measurement error. Uncertainty of measurement translates into uncertain relations btw measured variables.

Bayes' Theorem

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Discovered by Rev Thomas Bayes; published posthumously in 1763

Forward Inference: $P(e|h)$ – e.g., what is the probability of heads given a fair coin?

Bayes' Inverse Inference Rule:

$$P(h|e) = \frac{P(e|h)P(h)}{P(e)}$$

posterior = (likelihood \times prior) α

- Forward inference tells us likelihoods
- Finding priors is the main problem in applying Bayes' Rule

Bayes' Theorem

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For 30 years Bayes' Rule has NOT been used in AI

- Not because it was thought undesirable and not due to lack of priors, but
- Because: it was (thought) infeasible
 - ⇒ requires full joint probability
 - ⇒ computation is exponential in number of possible states

Bayesian Reasoning for Humans (BRH)

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First: it's important **Cancer Problem**

You have been referred to a specialty clinic. You are told that one in one hundred appearing at the clinic have cancer X and that the tests are positive given cancer X 80% of the time and they also are positive 10% of the time in people without cancer X .

What is the probability that you have cancer X ?

- 1 $\approx 99\%$
- 2 $\approx 80\%$
- 3 50-50
- 4 $\approx 30\%$
- 5 $\approx 7\%$

BRH: Bayes' Theorem

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Second: it's "hard"

$$\begin{aligned}P(c|p) &= \frac{P(p|c)P(c)}{P(p|c)P(c) + P(p|\neg c)P(\neg c)} \\ &= \frac{.8 \times .01}{.8 \times .01 + .1 \times .99} \\ &= \frac{.008}{.008 + .099} \\ &= \frac{.008}{.107} \approx .075\end{aligned}$$

BRH: Frequency Formats

Abstract

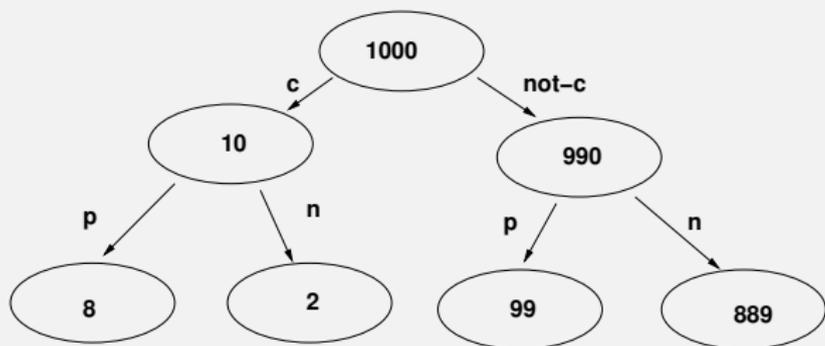
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Third: it's easy — multiply!



Classification tree for breast cancer

$$P(c|p) = \frac{P(c, p)}{P(p)} = \frac{8}{8 + 99}$$

⇒ Even easier: use Bayesian networks!

Cancer X

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You may have cancer X. You are in a suspect category where the rate is 10%. A test Y is positive given cancer 70% of the time and it is also positive 10% of the time without cancer.

What is the probability that you have cancer X?

- 1 $\approx 90\%$
- 2 $\approx 70\%$
- 3 $\approx 60\%$
- 4 50-50
- 5 $\approx 40\%$
- 6 $\approx 10\%$

OK, what's the probability given a positive test?

Cancer X: Frequency Formats

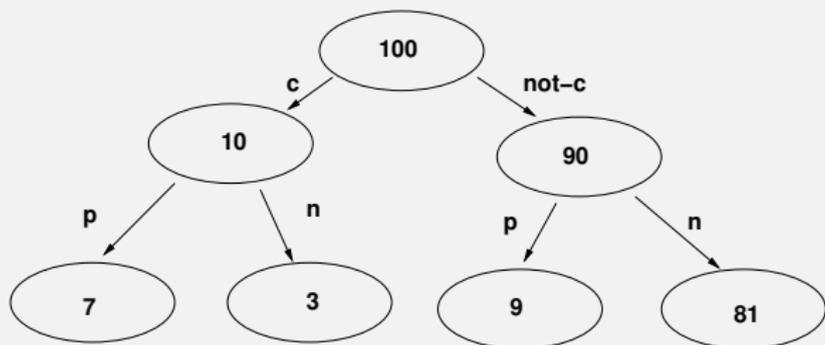
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$$P(c|p) = \frac{P(c, p)}{P(p)} = \frac{7}{7+9} \approx 0.44$$

AI History: Idiot Bayes

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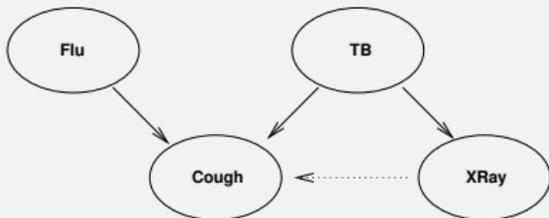
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An attempt to simplify probabilistic reasoning in 1960s medical diagnostic programs. Assumed:

- Diseases marginally independent
 - E.g., Flu and TB independent
- Symptoms independent given disease
 - E.g., Sneezing & Cough given Flu (!?)
- Diseases *remain* independent given symptoms
 - E.g., $P(\text{Flu}|\text{Cough}, \neg\text{TB}) = P(\text{Flu}|\text{Cough})$
 - This is obviously wrong!
 - Indeed, if $P(\text{TB} \vee \text{Flu}) = 1$,
 $P(\text{Flu}|\text{Cough}, \neg\text{TB}) = 1$



Duda's Prospector

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— Duda, Hart, Nilsson (1974)

First major success for “probabilities” in expert systems.

- Elicited marginal and conditional probabilities from experts
- Update rules were simple and fast:
 - $P(A, B) = \min(P(A), P(B))$
 - $P(A \vee B) = \max(P(A), P(B))$

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Problems?

- Update rules are stupid.
Suppose rain and shine are equally likely. Then we get:
 - $P(\text{rain}, \text{shine}) = \min(P(\text{rain}), P(\text{shine})) = 0.5$
 - $P(\text{rain} \vee \text{shine}) = \max(P(\text{rain}), P(\text{shine})) = 0.5$
 - Probabilities were *overspecified*
 - If you elicit $P(A)$, $P(A|B)$, $P(B)$ you have two different ways of computing $P(A)$:
 - ① $P(A)$
 - ② $P(A) = P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|\neg B)P(\neg B)$
 - Leading to inconsistencies
- ⇒ Not necessarily bad, but requires resolution!

Mycin's Certainty Factors

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Supposedly, a big improvement. Used in various expert systems through the 1980s.

Certainty Factors: $CF(h, e) \in [-1, 1]$

Update Rule: Belief in conclusion =
certainty factor \times belief in premises.

Mycin's Certainty Factors

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The devil was in the details; for complex updates

- Let $CF(h, e_1) = x$; $CF(h, e_2) = y$

Then

$$CF(h, e_1 \wedge e_2) = \begin{cases} x + y - xy & \text{if } x, y \geq 0 \\ \frac{x+y}{1-\min(|x|,|y|)} & \text{if } xy \leq 0 \\ x + y + xy & \text{if } x, y \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

However, David Heckerman (1986) proved CF calculus is equivalent to probability theory IF evidential statements are independent.

E.g., coughing and sneezing are independent of each other!

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Frequentism: anti-subjective

- Aristotle: The probable is what usu happens
- John Venn (1866): $P(h) = F(h)$, relative to a reference class and in the “long run”
- Richard von Mises (1919)/Church (1940): prob identified with the limit frequency in a (hypothetical) sequence, which is invariant under prior computable selections of subsequences.
 - Prob of rain tomorrow = 0.5 means. . .

Corresponds better with physical experiment:
probabilities don't seem to budge because of subjective opinions!

Subjective Probability

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Still, there seems to be a role for subjective opinion determining betting behavior

Suppose the world is **deterministic**: all physical probabilities are 0 or 1.

- It *still* makes sense to say that prob of rain tomorrow is 0.5!

Needn't rely on Laplace's principle of indifference. Instead, for example, use David Lewis's

Principal Principle:

$$P(h|Ch(h) = r) = r$$

I.e., theory is a source of probability

Subjective Probability

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Other possible sources of prior probability:

- Observed frequencies
 - Reichenbach's "straight rule"
- Evolved bias
- Even max entropy

Bayesian Networks

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Next time we will look at the new technology of Bayesian nets. . .

Note that Bayesian nets are usable regardless of your interpretation of probability.

Causal Graphical Models

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- First systematic use of graphs for reasoning
Wigmore (1913) charts for legal reasoning
- First systematic use of specifically causal graphs
*Sewall Wright (1921) for analysing
population genetics*
- Simon-Blalock method for parameterization
- Structural equation models (SEMs)
- Algorithms for Bayesian network modeling
Pearl (1988), Neapolitan (1990)

Reichenbach's Common Cause Principle

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Common Cause Principle

Reichenbach (1956): When there is a enduring correlation between two types of events, there is an underlying causal explanation.

Or:

Where there's smoke, there's fire

Or:

1

Statistician's Mantra

Conditional Independence: Causal Chains

Abstract

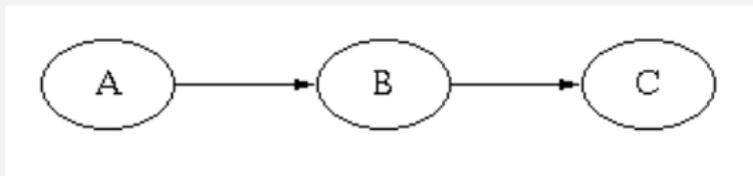
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Causal chains give rise to conditional independence:



$$P(C|A \wedge B) = P(C|B) \equiv A \perp\!\!\!\perp C|B$$

E.g., a sexually transmitted disease

Conditional Independence: Common Causes

Abstract

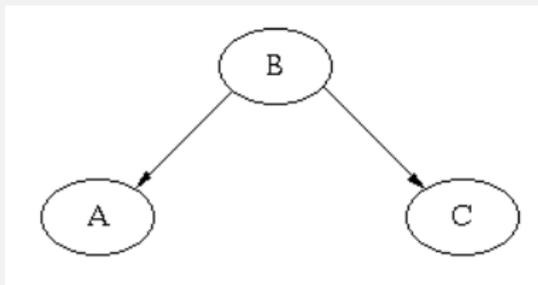
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Common causes (ancestors) also give rise to conditional independence:



$$P(C|A \wedge B) = P(C|B) \equiv A \perp\!\!\!\perp C | B$$

Conditional Dependence: Common Effects

Abstract

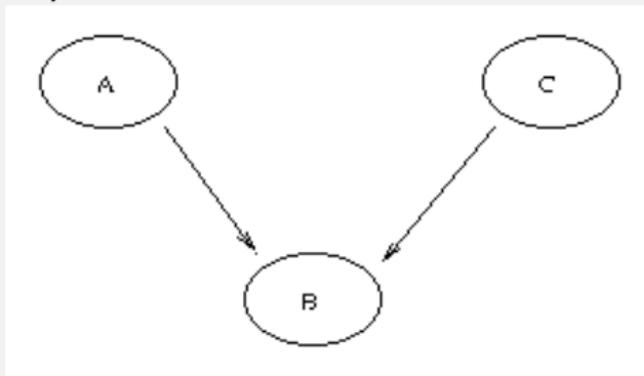
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Common effects (or their descendants) give rise to conditional *dependence*:



$$P(A|C \wedge B) \neq P(A)P(C) \equiv A \not\perp\!\!\!\perp C | B$$

E.g., inheriting a recessive trait from both parents;
explaining away.

Causality and Probability

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Dependency signature

Note that the conditional dependency structures are exact opposite btw chains/common ancestry and “collisions”.

- Margin dependence: marginal independence
- Conditional independence: conditional dependence

This is key for causal discovery.

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Definition (Bayesian Network)

A graph where:

- 1 The nodes are random variables.
- 2 Directed arcs (arrows) connect pairs of nodes.
- 3 Each node has a conditional probability table that *quantifies* the effects of its parents.
- 4 It is a directed acyclic graph (DAG), i.e. no directed cycles.

Pearl's Alarm Example

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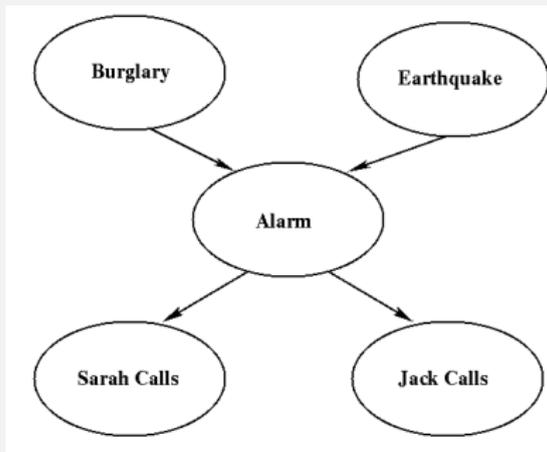
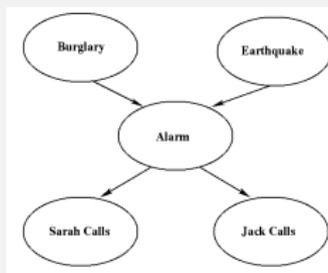


Figure: Pearl's Alarm Example

Factorization

Any joint probability distribution can be factorized using any total order. E.g.,

$$\begin{aligned} &P(B, E, A, S, J) \\ &= \frac{P(B, E, A, S, J)}{P(J)} P(J) \\ &= P(B, E, A, S|J)P(J) \\ &= \dots \\ &= P(B|E, A, S, J)P(E|A, S, J)P(A|S, J)P(S|J)P(J) \end{aligned}$$

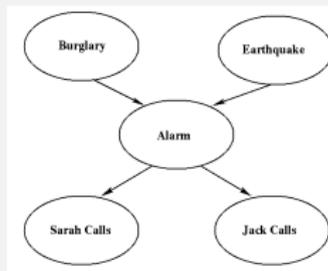


Factorization

The advantage of graphical models is that we have a graphical criterion for systematically simplifying this computation, yielding:

$$P(B, E, A, S, J) = P(S|A)P(J|A)P(A|B, E)P(B)P(E)$$

NB: Note that the order is no longer arbitrary!



The Markov condition

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In order to justify the simplification, we will have to invoke (and justify) the Markov condition:

Definition (Markov Condition)

There are no direct dependencies in the system being modeled which are not explicitly shown via arcs.

Equivalently,

Definition (Markov Condition)

Every variable is independent of its non-descendants given a known state for its parents.

The Markov condition

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The Markov condition is not automatically true; you have to *make* it true.

When it's false, there's a missing arc somewhere. The model is wrong, so go find the right model.

Minimally, this is the right position to adopt by default; caveats below. . .

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Given the above, a large variety of “efficient” algorithms are available for probabilistic inference — i.e., Bayesian inference conditioning upon observations

- exact
- or approximate (complex nets)

Efficiency depends upon network complexity (esp arc density)

- worst case exponential (NP-hard; Cooper, 1990)

Compactness and Node Ordering

Compactness of BN depends upon how the net is constructed, in particular upon the underlying node order

- When constructing a BN, it's best to add nodes in their natural causal order, root causes through to leaves.
- Other orderings tend to produce denser networks

Sugar Cane

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Using a small number of multiscale variables, including farm quality, soil classes and Landsat ETM based normalised difference vegetation index, a Bayesian belief network was constructed. The inferential capacity of the model was used to generate the expected yield for each paddock based on assessments 5 months prior to harvesting.

The power of the Bayesian belief network to display the model uncertainty and to direct further research into data collection is a compelling reason to utilise this technique.

Sugar Cane

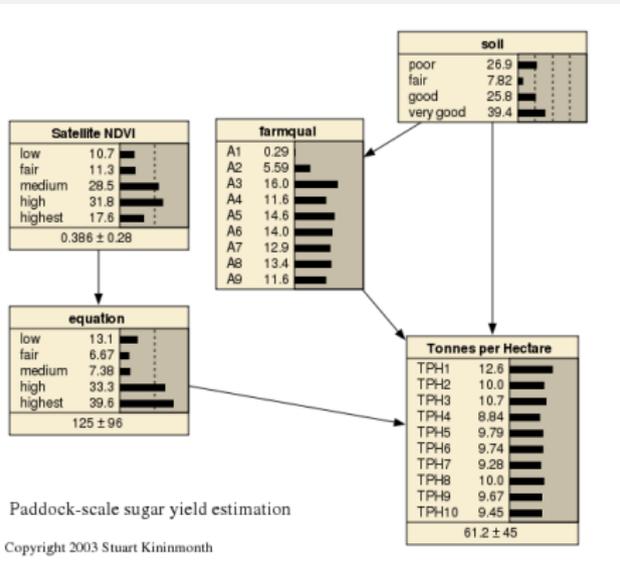
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Car Buyer

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This is an example influence diagram for Joe, who has to decide whether to buy a certain used car which may be a 'peach' or a 'lemon'. He has the option of doing some tests beforehand, and of buying it with a guarantee or not. This is the classic example of an influence diagram derived from a decision problem with a very asymmetric decision tree, since if Joe decides not to test then the test results have no meaning, etc.

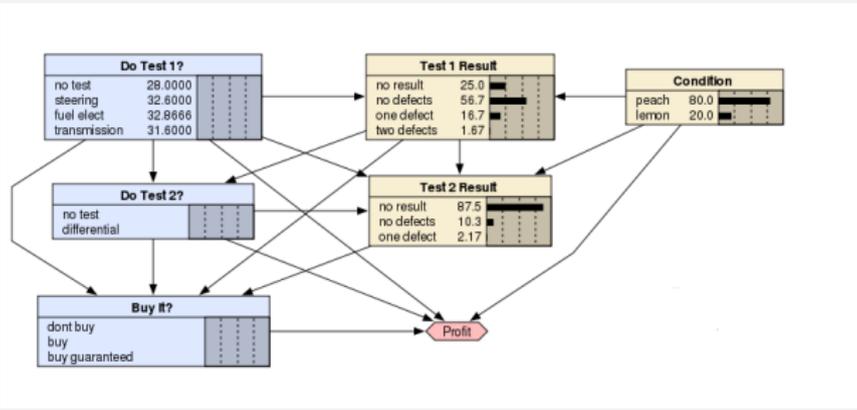
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Why does variable order affect network density?

Because

- Using the causal order allows direct representation of conditional independencies
- Violating causal order requires new arcs to re-establish conditional independencies

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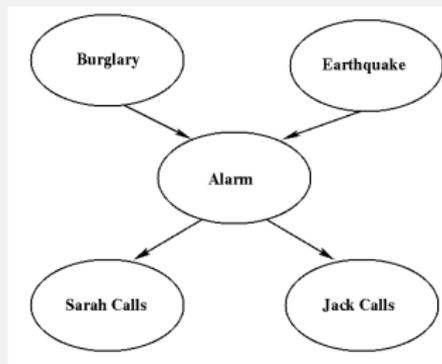
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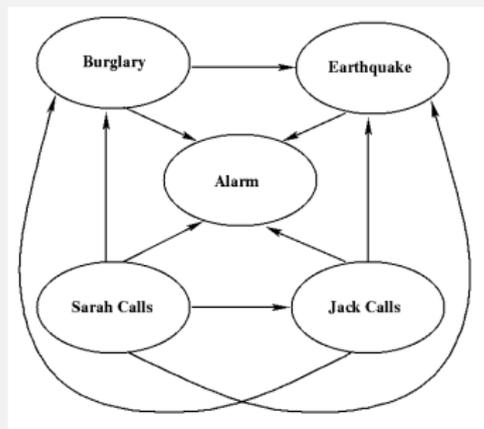
References

Causal Ordering

Using $\langle B, E, A, S, J \rangle$



Using $\langle S, J, B, E, A \rangle$



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It's clear that many BNs are *not* causal networks

- E.g., the last Alarm network above

But it's also clear that many others *are* causal networks.

Furthermore, it's clear that causal nets have advantages:

- They are more intuitive
 - easier to elicit
 - possible to explain
- They are more compact and efficient
- They can be machine learned
- Interventions can be reasoned about

Bayesian Networks: Summary

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BNs:

- Perform Bayesian updating on any available evidence
- Do so efficiently when possible
 - given the Markov condition
 - given low arc densities, using d-separations
- Causal models are advantageous: more understandable, more compact

Question: Can causal models really be machine learned?

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Extensions to Bayesian Networks

Decision networks:

For decision making.

Dynamic Bayesian networks:

For reasoning about changes over time

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Making Decisions

- Bayesian networks can be extended to support decision making.
- **Preferences** between different outcomes of various plans.
 - Utility theory
- **Decision theory** = Utility theory + Probability theory.

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Definition (Expected Utility)

$$EU(A|E) = \sum_i P(O_i|E, A) \times U(O_i|A)$$

- E = available evidence,
- A = an action
- O_i = possible outcome state
- U = utility

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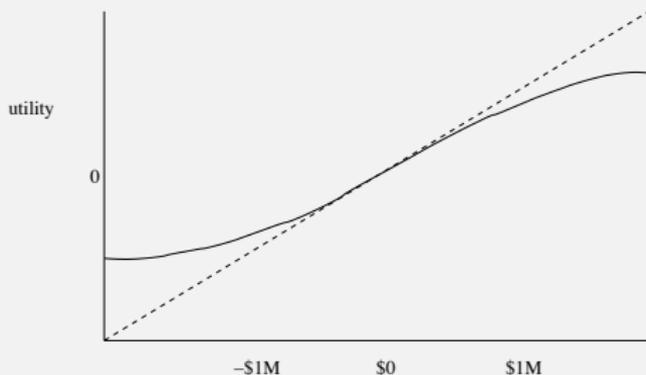
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How are utility functions constructed?

- Often utility is equated with money
 - Money in the future should be discounted compared to money in the present
 - And even discounted money is rarely equal to utility



Type of Nodes

Chance nodes: (ovals)

Represent random variables (same as Bayesian networks). Has an associated CPT. Parents can be decision nodes and other chance nodes.

Decision nodes: (rectangles)

Represent points where the decision maker has a choice of actions.

Utility nodes: (diamonds)

Represent the agent's utility function (also called **value nodes** in the literature). Parents are variables describing the outcome state that directly affect utility. Has an associated table representing multi-attribute utility function.

Sequential Decision Making

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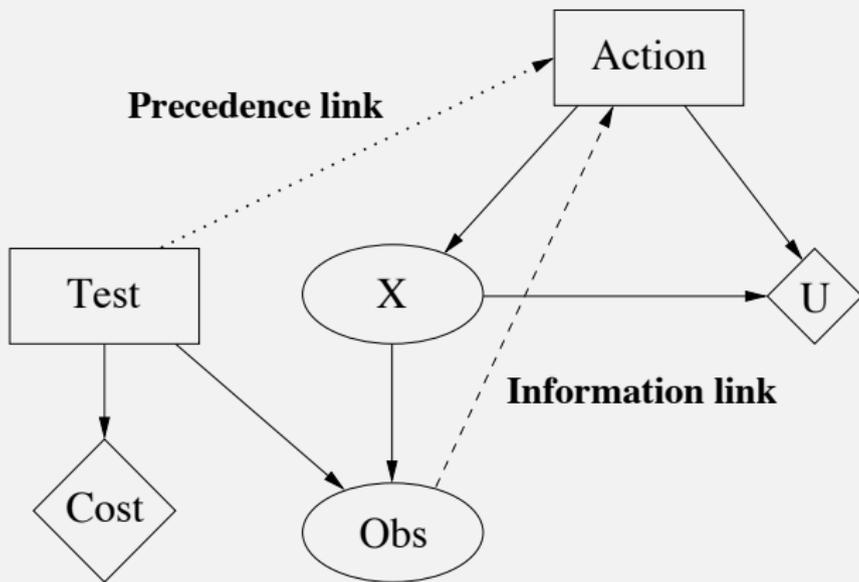
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- Precedence links used to show temporal ordering.
- Network for a test-action decision sequence



Dynamic Belief Networks

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- One node for each variable for each time step.
- **Intra-slice** arcs $Flu^T \longrightarrow Fever^T$
- **Inter-slice (temporal)** arcs
 - 1 $Flu^T \longrightarrow Flu^{T+1}$
 - 2 $Aspirin^T \longrightarrow Fever^{T+1}$

Fever DBN

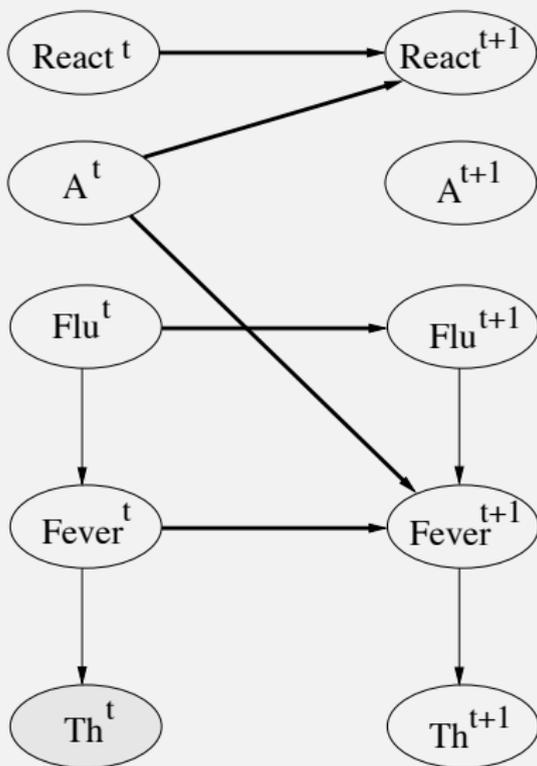
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- Can calculate distributions for S_{t+1} and further: **probabilistic projection.**
- Reasoning can be done using standard BN updating algorithms
- This type of DBN gets very large, very quickly.
- Usually only keep two time slices of the network.

Dynamic Decision Network

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- Similarly, Decision Networks can be extended to include temporal aspects.

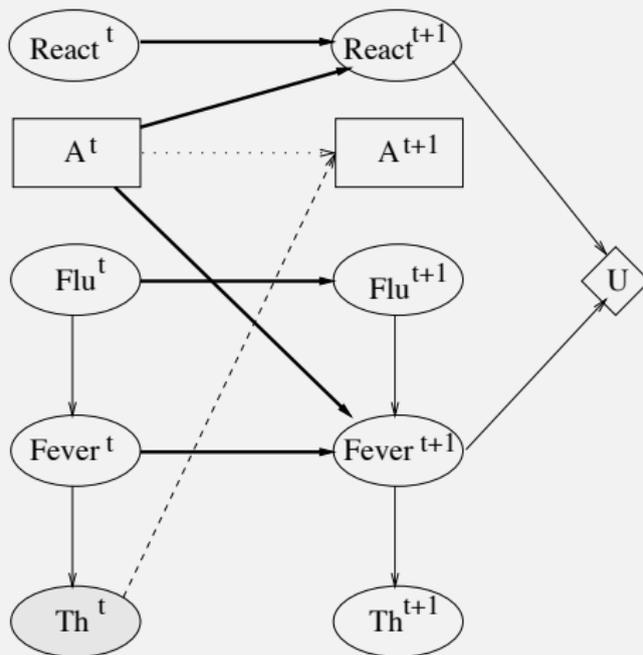
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Extensions: Summary

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- BNs can be extended with decision nodes and utility nodes to support decision making: *Decision Networks* or *Influence Diagrams*.
- BNs and decision networks can be extended to allow explicit reasoning about changes over time.

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- Parameterization
 - Linear models: see path modeling
- Structure Learning
 - Constraint-based learning = CI learning
 - Metric learning: Bayesian (or non-Bayesian) scoring function plus search

Parameterization

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Spiegelhalter & Lauritzen (1990) learning CPTs:

- assume parameter independence
- each CPT cell i = a parameter in a Dirichlet distribution

$$D[\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_i, \dots, \alpha_K]$$

for K parents

- prob of outcome i is $\alpha_i / \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k$
- observing outcome i update D to

$$D[\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_i + 1, \dots, \alpha_K]$$

Learning without parameter independence:

- Decision trees to learn structure within CPTs (Boutillier et al. 1996).
- Hybrid model learning (CPTs, d-trees) (O'Donnell et al. 2006a)

Main research problems: dealing with noise & missing data.

Learning Causal Structure

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This is the *harder* problem.

Size of the dag space is superexponential:

- Number of possible orderings: $n!$
- Times number of ways of pairing up (for arcs): $2^{C_2^n}$
- Minus number of possible cyclic graphs

Without the subtraction (which is a small proportion):

n	$n!2^{C_2^n}$
1	1
2	4
3	48
4	1536
5	12280
10	127677049435953561600
100	[too many digits to show]

Constraint-Based Learning

Verma-Pearl Algorithm

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IC algorithm (Verma and Pearl, 1991)

Suppose you have an Oracle who can answer yes or no to any question of the type:

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | \mathbf{S}?$$

(Is X conditional independent Y given \mathbf{S} ?)

Then you can learn the correct causal model, to within its statistical equivalence class (pattern).

Verma-Pearl Algorithm

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Their IC algorithm allows the discovery of the set of causal models consistent with all such answers (“patterns”):

Step 1 Put an undirected link between any two variables X and Y iff
for every \mathbf{S} s.t. $X, Y \notin \mathbf{S}$

$$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y | \mathbf{S}$$

Step 2 For every undirected, uncovered collision
 $X - Z - Y$ orient the arcs $X \rightarrow Z \leftarrow Y$ iff

$$X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y | \mathbf{S}$$

for **every** \mathbf{S} s.t. $X, Y \notin \mathbf{S}$ and $Z \in \mathbf{S}$.

Verma-Pearl Algorithm

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Step 3 For each connected pair X – Y , both:

- 1 if $X \rightarrow Y$ would introduce a cycle, then put $X \leftarrow Y$,
- 2 if $X \rightarrow Y$ would introduce $X \rightarrow Y \leftarrow Z$ where X and Z are disconnected, then put $X \leftarrow Y$.

Repeat this Step until no changes can be made to any connected pair.

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Spirtes, Glymour and Scheines (1993) made this approach practical.

Replace the Oracle with statistical tests:

- for linear models a significance test on partial correlation

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | \mathbf{S} \text{ iff } \rho_{XY \cdot \mathbf{S}} = 0$$

- for discrete models a χ^2 test on the difference between CPT counts expected with independence (E_i) and observed (O_i)

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | \mathbf{S} \text{ iff } \sum_i O_i \ln \left(\frac{O_i}{E_i} \right)^2 \approx 0$$

Implemented in their **PC Algorithm**

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- Heuristics used to speed up search.
- Result: discovered pattern.
- Current version is in TETRAD IV
- PC is also (being) implemented by numerous BN tools, including Weka and Hugin
- Advantages: simple, quick and free

Metric Causal Discovery

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A very different approach is *metric* learning of causality:

- Develop a score function which evaluates any Bayesian network *as a whole* relative to the evidence.
- Originally this was done in a brute force Bayesian computation of

$$P(dag|data)$$

by counting methods (Cooper & Herskovits, 1991)

- CD then means: search the space of dags looking for that dag which maximizes the score.

Metric Discovery Programs

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K2 (Cooper & Herskovits)
Greedy search. Mediocre performance.

MDL (Lam & Bacchus, 1993; Friedman, 1997)
An information-theoretic scoring function with various kinds of search, such as beam search. Friedman allows for hybrid local structure.

BDe/BGe (Heckerman & Geiger, 1995)
A Bayesian score; edit-distance priors supported; returns a pattern. Good performance.

CaMML (Korb & Nicholson, 2004; ch 8)
A Bayesian information-theoretic scoring function with MCMC (sampling search); returns dags and patterns. Performance similar to BDe/BGe. Supports priors and hybrid local structure.

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Greedy Equivalence Search (GES)

- Product of the CMU-Microsoft group (Meek, 1996; Chickering, 2002)
- Two-stage greedy search: Begin with unconnected pattern
 - 1 Greedily add single arcs until reaching a local maximum
 - 2 Prune back edges which don't contribute to the score
- Uses a Bayesian score over patterns only
- Implemented in TETRAD and Murphy's BNT

Recent Extensions to CaMML

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Two significant enhancements have been added in the last few years.

Expert priors (O'Donnell et al., 2006b)

- Being Bayesian, it is relatively easy to incorporate non-default priors into CaMML. We've done this in various ways, specifying strengths for:
 - A prior dag, computing a prior distribution via edit distance
 - Arc densities
 - Topological orders, total or partial

Hybrid model learning (O'Donnell et al., 2006a)

- Allowing varying representations of local structure (CPTs, d-trees, logit model) throughout the network

Causal Discovery: Summary

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- Constraint-based learning is simple and intuitive
- Metric learning is neither, but generally more effective
- CaMML uses an efficient coding for BNs and stochastic search
 - though the TOM space, not dag space
 - with a default prior rewarding richer dag models
 - with extensions allowing incorporation of expert prior information

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FIN

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