

Machine learning: lecture 20

Tommi S. Jaakkola MIT CSAIL *tommi@csail.mit.edu*



Topics

- Representation and graphical models
 - examples
- Bayesian networks
 - examples, specification
 - graphs and independence
 - associated distribution



What is a good representation?

- Properties of good representations
 - 1. Explicit
 - 2. Modular
 - 3. Permits efficient computation
 - 4. etc.



Representation: explicit

Representation in terms of variables and dependencies (a graphical model):



Representation in terms of state transitions (transition diagram)





Representation: modular

• We can easily add/remove components of the model



Hidden Markov model







- Posterior marginals (forward-backward)
- Max-probabilities (viterbi)



 Factorial Hidden Markov model as a Bayesian network (directed graphical model)





Plates and repeated sampling



- each document has N words, sampled from a distribution that depends on the choice of topics
- the topics for each document are sampled from a class conditional distribution

• Lattice models (e.g., Ising model) as a Markov random field



 symmetric interactions (e.g., alignment of two nearby spins is energetically favorable)

• Factor graphs and codes (information theory)



 circles denote variables while the squares are factors (functions) that constrain the values of the variables



Graphical models



• Graph semantics:

 $\mathsf{graph} \Rightarrow \mathsf{separation} \ \mathsf{properties} \Rightarrow \mathsf{independence}$

• Association with probability distributions:

independence \Rightarrow family of distributions

• Inference and estimation:

graph structure \Rightarrow efficient computation



Bayesian networks

 Bayesian networks are directed acyclic graphs, where the nodes represent variables and directed edges capture dependencies



A mixture model as a Bayesian network



Bayesian networks

 Bayesian networks are directed acyclic graphs, where the nodes represent variables and directed edges capture dependencies



• Graph semantics:

graph \Rightarrow separation properties \Rightarrow independence

• Association with probability distributions: independence \Rightarrow family of distributions



• A simple Bayesian network: coin tosses

 $\bigcirc \begin{array}{c} x_1 & x_2 \\ \bigcirc & \bigcirc \end{array}$



$$P(x_1): \begin{array}{ccc} 0.5 & x_1 & x_2 \\ 0.5 & \bigcirc & \bigcirc & P(x_2): \begin{array}{c} 0.5 \\ 0.5 \end{array}$$













- Two levels of description
 - 1. graph structure (dependencies, independencies)
 - 2. associated probability distribution



Example cont'd

• What can the graph alone tell us?





Example cont'd

• What can the graph alone tell us?



• x_1 and x_2 are marginally independent



Example cont'd

• What can the graph alone tell us?



• x_1 and x_2 are marginally independent



• x_1 and x_2 become *dependent* if we know x_3

(the dependence concerns our beliefs about the outcomes)



- N = X is nice?
- $\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{traffic} \ \mathsf{light}$
- S = X decides to stop?
- T = the other car turns left?
- C = crash?





- N = X is nice?
- $\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{traffic} \ \mathsf{light}$
- S = X decides to stop?
- T = the other car turns left?
- C = crash?





- N = X is nice?
- $\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{traffic} \ \mathsf{light}$
- S = X decides to stop?
- T = the other car turns left?
- C = crash?





- N = X is nice?
- $\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{traffic} \ \mathsf{light}$
- S = X decides to stop?
- T = the other car turns left?
- C = crash?





- N = X is nice?
- $\mathsf{L} = \mathsf{traffic} \ \mathsf{light}$
- S = X decides to stop?
- T = the other car turns left?
- C = crash?





N = X is nice? L = traffic light S = X decides to stop? T = the other car turns left? C = crash?



 If we only know that X decided to stop, can X's character (variable N) tell us anything about the other car turning (variable T)?



• Are N and T independent given S?





• Are N and T independent given S?





• Are N and T independent given S?







• Are N and T independent given S?







• Are N and T independent given S?







• Are N and T independent given S?







Graphs and distributions



• A graph is a compact representation of a large collection of independence properties



Graphs and distributions



- A graph is a compact representation of a large collection of independence properties
 - **Theorem:** Any probability distribution that is consistent with a directed graph G has to factor according to "node given parents":

$$P(\mathbf{x}|G) = \prod_{i=1}^{d} P(x_i|\mathbf{x}_{pa_i})$$

where \mathbf{x}_{pa_i} are the *parents* of x_i and d is the number of nodes (variables) in the graph.



Explaining away phenomenon

Model





Model

Explaining away phenomenon



Radio report

Alarm

