Credal Networks

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Outline

1. Motivation: why are graph-based “languages” useful?
2. Background: basics on Bayesian networks.
5. Credal networks: basic applications.

Basic fact: everything is basic...
Motivation

- Graphs offer a compact and expressive language to express scenarios...
  - ... with many independent modules, with interacting/hierachical pieces that display dependence/independence.
  - ... with simplifying assumptions concerning dependence.

- It is possible to exploit the structure of the graph to obtain...
- ... insights about theoretical properties.
- ... gain in computational operations.

So, graphs are great. Let’s see what graphs are.
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- So, graphs are great. Let’ see what graphs are.
Detour: directed acyclic graph
Detour: graph-theoretic concepts

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Motivation: Some history

- In the 60s, probabilities were not adopted in AI (McCarthy and Hayes: “information necessary to assign numerical probabilities is not ordinarily available”).
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- During the 80s, probabilities received attention, and Bayesian networks appeared; Markov random fields were around and were adopted.
- Since then, probability has been adopted everywhere: knowledge representation, planning and problem solving, learning.
- (Since 80s, credal networks have been also investigated.)
The Alarm network
The LV-failure network

diastolic flow murmur

feeding problems
The HU network
Heredogram analysis
Heredogram to Bayesian network
Representing DNA sequences

- A popular representation is based on Bayesian networks (actually, Hidden Markov Models):

![Diagram of a Bayesian network]

a1 a2 A3 . . B1 B2 A4 b4 B3 B5 A5 B5

(from www.cse.ucsc.edu/compbio/sam.html)
Protein interaction...

Classification: expression detection
Genie, SamIam

Others: BNT, and for more, bnt.sourceforge.net/bnsoft.html.
Hugin, Analytica

Others: Netica, BayesiaLab, and for more, bnt.sourceforge.net/bnsoft.html.
This and a lot more: www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/bugs/
Application: Topic models

- Goal: to represent topics in text classification.
- Popular model: Latent Dirichlet analysis.

\[ \varphi_j \sim \text{Dirichlet}(B), \quad \theta_d \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha), \]
\[ z_i \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\theta_{\beta_i}), \quad w_i | z_i = j \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\varphi_j). \]
A Bayesian network encodes a single joint probability density over $\mathbf{X}$.

The joint density is specified through a directed acyclic graph.

Each node represents a random variable $X_i$ in $\mathbf{X}$.

- Parents of $X_i$: $\text{pa}(X_i)$. 
Example: The dog problem

By Charniak, 1991:
Semantics: The Markov condition

Every variable is independent of its nondescendants nonparents given its parents.
Exercise

Enumerate the independence relations implied by the Markov condition on these three networks.

- **CHAIN:**
  
  ![Chain Network Diagram]

- **FORK:**
  
  ![Fork Network Diagram]

- **COLLIDER:**
  
  ![Collider Network Diagram]
Semantics: Basic result

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Theorem

The Markov condition implies that any Bayesian network represents a unique joint probability density that factorizes as:

\[ p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod p(X_i | \text{pa}(X_i)). \]
Semantics: Basic result

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Theorem

The Markov condition implies that any Bayesian network represents a unique joint probability density that factorizes as:

\[ p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod_i p(X_i | \text{pa}(X_i)). \]

Such a factorization reduces the number of needed probability values.
Exercise

Write down the factorization of the joint distribution for \([A, B, C, D, E, F, G]\).
Exercise

1. Convince yourself that, given a directed acyclic graph, it is possible to order the variables in such a way that variable $X_i$ is never preceded by one of its descendants.

2. Prove that for any Bayesian network,

$$p(X) = \prod_i p(X_i | Y_i) ,$$

where $Y_i$ is a set of variables that precede $X_i$ in some ordering of variables that guarantees that $X_i$ is never preceded by one of its descendants.

d-separation

- Famous concept in Bayesian networks.
- Very complicated; sound, but not complete.
- Conceptually important: allows one to discard pieces of the network.
- Proved only using the graphoid properties.
- Fast in a computer (polynomial algorithms).

**Definition**

Given three sets of variables $X$, $Y$, and $Z$, suppose that along every path between a variable in $X$ and a variable in $Y$ there is a variable $W$ such that:

1. either $W$ is a collider and is not in $Z$ and none of its descendants are in $Z$,
2. or $W$ is not a collider and is in $Z$.

Then $Y$ and $X$ are **d-separated by $Z$**.
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1. either $W$ is a collider and is not in $Z$ and none of its descendants are in $Z$,
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Then $Y$ and $X$ are *d-separated* by $Z$. 
Perfect maps?

A graph-based representation scheme where independence is equivalent to d-separation is a *perfect map*. Bayesian networks are not perfect maps: There may be independences without d-separation. Bayesian networks are independence maps: a d-separation implies an independence. Moreover, all independences implied by d-separation are obtained by application of graphoid properties to the Markov condition!
Perfect maps?

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Perfect maps?

- A graph-based representation scheme where independence is equivalent to d-separation is a **perfect map**.
- Bayesian networks are not perfect maps: There may be independences without d-separation.
- Bayesian networks are **independence maps**: a d-separation implies an independence.
- Moreover, all independences implied by d-separation are obtained by application of graphoid properties to the Markov condition!
An exercise on failure of representation...

From Pearl, p. 126.

1. Consider population of animals where disease is spreading through sexual contact.
2. Closed heterosexual group: two males $M_1$, $M_2$ and two females $F_1$, $F_2$.
3. $M_1$ and $M_2$ are independent given $F_1$ and $F_2$.
4. $F_1$ and $F_2$ are independent given $M_1$ and $M_2$.
5. A pair of male-female is not independent.
6. Show: no Bayesian network with only four nodes can represent this.
Inference

- We want: $P(X_q|X_E)$. 

- Problem is #P-hard; some special cases are easy (polytrees: Pearl algorithm), and some algorithms work well in practice...

- There are very powerful algorithms to approximate this (MCMC, variational, loopy).

- There are other inferences... to be mentioned later.
Inference

- We want: \( P(X_q|X_E) \).
- That is,

\[
P(X_q|X_E) = \frac{P(X_q, X_E)}{P(X_E)}
\]
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- We want: $P(X_q|X_E)$.
- That is,

$$P(X_q|X_E) = \frac{P(X_q, X_E)}{P(X_E)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{x \setminus \{x_q, x_E\}} P(x)}{\sum_{x \setminus x_E} P(x)}$$

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- There are very powerful algorithms to approximate this (MCMC, variational, loopy).
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- Problem is $\#P$-hard; some special cases are easy (polytrees: Pearl algorithm), and some algorithms work well in practice...
  - There are very powerful algorithms to approximate this (MCMC, variational, loopy).
  - There are other inferences... to be mentioned later.
Exercise

Compute $P(F|L)$.

$p(f) = 0.5$ \hspace{1cm} $p(b) = 0.5$

$p(l|f) = 0.6$ \hspace{1cm} $p(l|f^c) = 0.05$

$p(d|f, b) = 0.8$ \hspace{1cm} $p(d|f, b^c) = 0.1$

$p(d|f^c, b) = 0.1$ \hspace{1cm} $p(d|f^c, b^c) = 0.7$

$p(h|d) = 0.6$ \hspace{1cm} $p(h|d^c) = 0.3$
Learning

- Get *training* data, produce graph/probability values.
- Maximum likelihood: counting, and perhaps the EM algorithm.
- Bayesian: typically with conjugate priors and independence assumptions; often through MCMC or variational approximations.
Building a Bayesian network

► Elicitation from experts.
  ► Start identifying variables, and build the graph.
  ► Then elicit the numbers.

► Learning from data.
  ► Elicit graph, learn numbers.
  ► Learn graph and numbers.

► ... or any combination of expert opinion and data.
In short,

1. Bayesian networks are compact and intuitive.
2. They consist of graph and conditional distributions.
3. Basic assumption is Markov condition.
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1. Bayesian networks are compact and intuitive.
2. They consist of graph and conditional distributions.
3. Basic assumption is Markov condition.
4. The method is not “perfect” in a technical sense (not all independences can be represented).
   - Should we try other kinds of graphs? We could: Markov random fields, chain graphs, etc. None is “perfect”... Anyway, not discussed in this talk...
Credal networks

- Suppose we have a set of variables $X$.

- We wish to \textit{compactly} specify a \textit{set} of joint distributions over $X$, using graphs.

- Maybe we just wish to specify a set of Bayesian networks.

- Or, maybe we wish to specify a set of joint distributions using a single graph and associated credal sets.
  - This is a credal network.
Defining credal networks

- Take a directed acyclic graph, with a variable associated with each node.
Defining credal networks

- Take a directed acyclic graph, with a variable associated with each node.

- Two possibilities:
  1. We assume that every node is associated with a “local” credal set/lower prevision conditional on its parents, and some rule that combines these local pieces.
     - Maybe impose \( p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod_i p(X_i | \text{pa}(X_i)) \)?
  2. We assume a Markov condition of some sort, and see what happens.
     - Maybe derive \( p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod_i p(X_i | \text{pa}(X_i)) \)?
Defining strong extension

- Suppose we have a directed acyclic graph, with a variable associated with each node.
- Suppose every node is strongly independent of its nondescendants nonparents given its parents.
- Take the largest set of joint distributions that satisfies this condition (the \textit{strong} extension).
- What is this set?
The strong extension is the convex hull of a set of joint distributions, all of which factorize as

$$p(X) = \prod_{i} p(X_i|\text{pa}(X_i)).$$
Example: The credal dog problem

\[
\begin{align*}
p(f) & \in [0.5, 0.6] & p(b) & \leq 0.5 \\
p(l|f) & \in [0.5, 0.7] & p(l|f^c) & = [0.1, 0.2] \\
p(d|f, b) & = 0.8 & p(d|f, b^c) & = 0.1 \\
p(d|f^c, b) & = 0.1 & p(d|f^c, b^c) & = 0.7 \\
p(h|d) & \in [0.5, 0.8] & p(h|d^c) & = 0.3
\end{align*}
\]
Note: in the previous example,

- there are $2^5$ possible ways to factorize the joint distribution... Number of vertices is the main challenge with strong extensions.

- all local credal sets are *separately specified*; we might instead have a constraint $p(l|f) + p(l|f^c) \geq 0.5$. Or maybe even a *non-local* constraint $p(l|f) \geq p(h|d)$...
Separately specified strong extension

- The strong extension is the convex hull of a set of joint distributions, all of which factorize as

\[ p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod_{i} p(X_i|pa(X_i)) . \]

- Hence each variable can be associated with a “local” credal sets \( K(X_i|pa(X_i) = \pi_{ik}) \), one for each valid \( \pi_{ik} \).
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- Hence each variable can be associated with a “local” credal sets $K(X_i | \text{pa}(X_i) = \pi_{ik})$, one for each valid $\pi_{ik}$.
- Vertices of the joint credal set are combinations of vertices of the “local” credal sets.
- Any lower/upper expectation is attained at a vertex of the joint credal set (thus at a combination of vertices of “local” credal sets.)
Exercise

- One can imagine a set of joint distributions that satisfies the “strong” Markov condition but that is smaller than the strong extension... just imagine imposing constraints amongst the local distribution!

- Challenge: construct such a set of joint distributions for a network $X \rightarrow Y$, where $X$ and $Y$ are binary variables.
Specifying local conditional credal sets

- Qualitative constraints (back to Wellman, 1990).
- Probability intervals (back at least to Tessem, 1992).
- Order of magnitude comparisons.
- Belief functions.
- Possibilistic measures.
- General constraints (back a long way, van der Gaag, Moral,...), either on probabilities or on lower probabilities/expectations.
Defining epistemic extension

- Suppose we have a directed acyclic graph, with a variable associated with each node.
- Suppose every node is epistemically independent of its nondescendants nonparents given its parents.
- Take the largest set of joint distributions that satisfies this condition (the \textit{epistemic} extension).
- What is this set?
An example of epistemic extension

Consider network

\[ W \rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \]

with four binary variables, and probability intervals assigned to all probability values.
More than 6 million vertices in the epistemic extension!!!
For more on epistemic extension, see Gert’ talk.
Epistemic independence and d-separation

- Epistemic independence does not satisfy the contraction property.
- A credal network with epistemic independence may not satisfy d-separation.

Example:
- Binary variables $W$, $X$ and $Y$.
- $K(W, X, Y)$ is convex hull of three distributions:

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<tr>
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<th>$p_1(X, Y, W)$</th>
<th>$p_2(X, Y, W)$</th>
<th>$p_3(X, Y, W)$</th>
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<td>0.018</td>
<td>0.0093</td>
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<td>$Y_0$</td>
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<td>$Y_0$</td>
<td>0.288</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>0.228</td>
</tr>
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<td>$W_0$</td>
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<td>$Y_1$</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.084</td>
<td>0.09</td>
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<td>$W_1$</td>
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<td>$W_0$</td>
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<td>0.384</td>
<td>0.196</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W_1$</td>
<td>$X_1$</td>
<td>$Y_1$</td>
<td>0.096</td>
<td>0.294</td>
<td>0.195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- $X$ and $Y$ are epistemically independent; $X$ and $W$ are conditionally epistemically independent given $Y$.
- But $X$ and $(W, Y)$ are not not epistemically independent.
Epistemic independence and a conjecture

- Epistemic independence does not satisfy the contraction property.
- A credal network with epistemic independence may not satisfy d-separation.
  - Perhaps the way to go is to pursue different graph-based models (Moral, Vantaggi).
  - Perhaps the way to go is to assume just epistemic irrelevance.
- Conjecture: the epistemic extension does satisfy d-separation.
Inference with strong extensions

- Strong extensions are quite similar to Bayesian networks (for instance, d-separation).
- Inference is:
  \[ P(X_q | X_E) = \min P(X_q | X_E). \]
Inference with strong extensions

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- Or, more explicitly,
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  \min \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{x} \setminus \{x_q, x_E\}} \prod_i p(X_i|\text{pa}(X_i))}{\sum_{\mathbf{x} \setminus \mathbf{X}_E} \prod_i p(X_i|\text{pa}(X_i))}.
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  where typically the min is over a large set of “local” credal sets.
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  \]

  where typically the min is over a large set of “local” credal sets.

- This is a multilinear program.

- Solution lies at a set of vertices of credal sets.

- Best solutions resort to optimization theory to procedure inference engines.
Exercise

Compute $P(F|L)$.

$$p(f) \in [0.5, 0.6] \quad p(b) \leq 0.5$$
$$p(l|f) \in [0.5, 0.7] \quad p(l|f^c) = [0.1, 0.2]$$
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$$p(h|d) \in [0.5, 0.8] \quad p(h|d^c) = 0.3$$
Inference methods

- Enumeration methods (obsolete), multilinear programming (exact/approximate), simulated annealing, genetic algorithms... (approximate), variational (approximate).

- Special case where exact inference is simple: polytrees with binary variables.
  - Polytrees: if one discards arrow directions, one gets a tree.
  - Binary variables: credal sets are intervals.
2U and loopy 2U

- In the polytree+binary variable case, the 2U algorithm produces inferences in polynomial time.

- The 2U algorithm can be understood as a sequence of message exchanges between nodes in the polytree; the sequence surely ends.

- The *loopy* 2U algorithm is an approximate method for general graphs: messages are continuously exchanged, until probability intervals for all nodes are obtained (no guarantees, but good practical performance).
## Complexity

### Bayesian Networks

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<th>Polytree</th>
<th>Bounded induced-width</th>
<th>General</th>
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<td>Polynomial</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPE</td>
<td>Polynomial</td>
<td>Polynomial</td>
<td>NP-Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP</td>
<td>NP-Complete</td>
<td>NP-Complete</td>
<td>PP&lt;sup&gt;PP&lt;/sup&gt;-Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MmAP</td>
<td>$\Sigma_2^P$-Complete</td>
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<td>NP&lt;sup&gt;PP&lt;/sup&gt;-Hard</td>
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### Strong extensions

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(Bounded induced-width: subjacent graph has induced-width bounded by $O(\log(s))$, where $s$ is the size of input.)
First scenario: missing data.
Absence of assumptions concerning missing data leads to set of estimates for probability values.

Example:
Consider network $X \rightarrow Y$ and data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$X$</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$Y$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here, maximum likelihood estimate for $P(Y = 1|X = 1)$ belongs to $[1/3, 2/3]$. 
Learning with imprecise priors

- Second scenario: imprecise priors. For instance, instead of Dirichlet distributions, the Imprecise Dirichlet model (IDM).

- Here we have, with suitable independence assumptions over the priors:

\[
\hat{P}(X_i = x_{ij} | \text{pa}(X_i) = \pi_{ik}) \in \left[ \frac{n_{ijk}}{s + n_{ik}}, \frac{s + n_{ijk}}{s + n_{ik}} \right],
\]

where \( s \) is the parameter of the IDM.
Expert system for assessment of debris in Switzerland (IDSIA).
Application II

Semi-qualitative prior for facial expression recognition (IDSIA).
Credal classifiers: dealing with missing values, few data points, and imprecise priors in classification (IDSIA).

JNCC2: www.idsia.ch/~giorgio/jncc2.html
Credal classifiers: dealing with missing values, few data points, and imprecise priors in classification (IDSIA).

### Application III

JNCC2: [www.idsia.ch/~giorgio/jncc2.html](http://www.idsia.ch/~giorgio/jncc2.html)
Application IV

**CRAŁC**: description logic with probabilities, applied to mobile robotics (USP).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Desk} & \equiv \text{Table} \sqcap \exists \text{near. Chair}, \\
\text{Entrance} & \equiv \text{Door} \sqcap \exists \text{near. Sign}, \\
\text{InteriorObject} & \sqsubseteq \text{Object}, \\
P(\text{Object}) & \in [0.2, 0.8], \\
P(\text{Environment}) & \in [0.2, 0.8].
\end{align*}
\]
Planning with Markov Decision Processes with Imprecise Probabilities: graph-based representations of transition credal sets (USP).

(define (domain sysadmin)
  (:requirements :adl)
  (:types comp)
  (:predicates (up ?c)(conn ?c ?d))
  (:action reboot
    :parameters (?x - comp)
    :effect
      (and (decrease (reward) 1)
        (probabilistic 0.9 (up ?x))
        (oneof
          (forall (?d - comp)
            (probabilistic
              0.6 (when (exists (?c - comp)
                        (and (conn ?c ?d)(not (up ?c))(not (= ?x ?d))))
                       (not (up ?d)))
            )))
          (forall (?d - comp)
            (probabilistic
              0.8 (when (exists (?c - comp)
                        (and (conn ?c ?d)(not (up ?c))(not (= ?x ?d))))
                       (not (up ?d)))
            ))))))))
To conclude...

- Graph-based “languages” can be used to compactly encode probabilities and credal sets over several variables.
- Credal networks are quite flexible and expressive.
- There are several possible extensions for a credal network.
  - Strong extension is the most popular.
  - Epistemic extension is quite intuitive.
- Inference and learning methods have been developed.
- Applications have been addressed.