

## Conditional Independence

- Suppose we know the following:
- The flu causes sinus inflammation
- Allergies cause sinus inflammation
- Sinus inflammation causes a runny nose
- Sinus inflammation causes headaches
- How are these connected?


## Causal Structure



Knowing sinus separates the variables from each other.

## Conditional Independence

- We say that two variables, $A$ and $B$, are conditionally independent given C if:
$-P(A \mid B C)=P(A \mid C)$
- How does this help?
- We store only a conditional probability table (CPT) of each variable given its parents
- Naïve Bayes (e.g. Spam Assassin) is a special case of this!


## Getting More Formal

-What is a Bayes net?

- A directed acyclic graph (DAG)
- Given the parents, each variable is independent of non-descendents
- Joint probability decomposes:

$$
P\left(x_{1} \ldots x_{n}\right)=\prod_{i} P\left(x_{i} \mid \operatorname{parents}\left(x_{i}\right)\right)
$$

- For each node $X_{i}$, store $P\left(X_{i} \mid\right.$ parents $\left.\left(X_{i}\right)\right)$
- Represent as table called a CPT


## Real Applications of Bayes Nets

- Diagnosis of lymph node disease
- Used in Microsoft office and Windows
- http://www.research.microsoft.com/research/dtg/
- Used by robots to identify meteorites to study
- Study the human genome:Alex Hartemink et al.
- Many other applications...


## Space Efficiency



- Entire joint as 32 (31) entries
$-\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{H} \mid \mathrm{S}), \mathrm{P}(\mathrm{N} \mid \mathrm{S})$ have $4(2)$
- $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{S} \mid \mathrm{AF})$ has 8 (4)
$-P(A)$ has 2 (1)
- Total is 20 (10)
- This can require exponentially less space
- Space problem is solved for "most" problems

Atomic Event Probabilities

$$
P\left(x_{1} \ldots x_{n}\right)=\prod_{i} P\left(x_{i} \mid \operatorname{parents}\left(x_{i}\right)\right)
$$



Note that this is guaranteed true if we construct net incrementally, so that for each new variable added, we connect all influencing Variables as parents

## Doing Things the Hard Way



Doing this naïvely, we need to sum over all atomic events defined over these variables. There are exponentially many of these.

Working Smarter II

$$
\begin{aligned}
P(h) & =\sum_{\text {SANF }} P(h S A N F) \\
& =\sum_{\text {SANF }} P(h N \mid S A F) P(S A F) \\
& =\sum_{N S} P(h N \mid S) \sum_{A F} P(S A F) \\
& =\sum_{S} P(h \mid S) \sum_{N} P(N \mid S) \sum_{A F} P(S A F) \\
& =\sum_{S} P(h \mid S) \sum_{N} P(N \mid S) \sum_{A F} P(S \mid A F) P(A) P(F)
\end{aligned}
$$

Potential for exponential reduction in computation.

## Checkpoint

- BNs can give us an exponential reduction in the space required to represent a joint distribution.
- Storage is exponential in largest parent set.
- Claim: Parent sets are often reasonable.
- Claim: Inference cost is often reasonable.
- Question: Can we quantify relationship between structure and inference cost?


## What Is a Bayes Net, Really?

- A Bayes net is a data structure (with associated algorithms) for fast manipulation of probability distributions
- Bayes nets solve computational problems
- Bayes nets represent; they do not solve
- Q: How often can a bnet solve a computational efficiency problem?


## Computational Efficiency

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{S A N F} P(h S A N F)=\sum_{S A N F} P(h \mid S) P(N \mid S) P(S \mid A F) P(A) P(F) \\
& =\sum_{S} P(h \mid S) \sum_{N} P(N \mid S) \sum_{A F} P(S \mid A F) P(A) P(F)
\end{aligned}
$$

The distributive law allows us to decompose the sum.

Potential for an exponential reduction in computation costs

## Now the Bad News...

- In full generality: Inference is NP-hard
- Decision problem: Is $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{X})>0$ ?
- We reduce from 3SAT
- 3SAT variables map to BN variables
- Clauses become variables with the corresponding SAT variables as parents



## And Trees

We could make a single variable which is the AND of all of our clauses, but this would have CPT that is exponential in the number of clauses.


## Is BN Inference NP Complete?

- Can show that BN inference is \#P hard
- \#P is counting the number of satisfying assignments
- Idea: Assign variables uniform probability
- Probability of conjunction of clauses tells us how many assignments are satisfying


## Checkpoint

- BNs can be very compact
- Worst case: Inference is intractable
- Hope that worst is case:
- Avoidable
- Easily characterized in some way


## Clues in the Graphical Structure

- Q: How does graphical structure relate to our ability to push in summations over variables?
- A:
- We relate summations to graph operations
- Summing out a variable =
- Removing node(s) from DAG
- Creating new replacement node
- Relate graph properties to computational efficiency


## Another Example Network



$$
P(w \mid s r)=0.99 \quad \text { W. Grass }
$$

$P(w \mid s \bar{r})=0.9$
$P(w \mid \bar{s} r)=0.9$
$P(w \mid \bar{s} \bar{r})=0.0$

Eliminating Sprinkler/Rain
$P(s r)=0.09$
$P(s \bar{r})=0.21$
$P(\bar{s} r)=0.41$
$P(\bar{s} \bar{r})=0.29$

## Dealing With Evidence

Suppose we have observed that the grass is wet? What is the probability that it has rained?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& P(R \mid W)=\alpha P(R W) \\
& \quad=\alpha \sum_{C S} P(C S R W) \\
& \quad=\alpha \sum_{C S} P(C) P(S \mid C) P(R \mid C) P(W \mid R S) \\
& \quad=\alpha \sum_{C} P(R \mid C) P(C) \sum_{S} P(S \mid C) P(W \mid R S)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Efficiency of Variable Elimination

- Exponential in the largest domain size of new variables created
- Equivalently: Exponential in largest function created by pushing in summations
- Linear for trees
- Almost linear for almost trees ()
- (See examples on board...)


## Beyond Variable Elimination

- Variable elimination must be rerun for every new query
- Possible to compile a Bayes net into a new data structure to make repeated queries more efficient
- Note that inference in trees is linear
- Define a cluster tree where
- Clusters = sets of original variables
- Can infer original probs from cluster probs
- For networks w/o good elimination schemes
- Sampling
- Variational methods


## Facts About Variable Elimination

- Picking variables in optimal order is NP hard
- For some networks, there will be no elimination ordering that results in a poly time solution (Must be the case unless $\mathrm{P}=\mathrm{NP}$ )
- Polynomial for trees
- Need to get a little fancier if there are a large number of query variables or evidence variables


## Bayes Net Summary

- Bayes net = data structure for joint distribution
- Can give exponential reduction in storage
- Variable elimination:
- simple, elegant method
- efficient for many networks
- For some networks, must use approximation

