Lecture 19: Uncertainty 4

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Today's Lecture

Inference in Multiply Connected BNs

- **Clustering** methods transform the network into a probabilistically equivalent polytree.
 - Also called Join tree algorithms
- **Conditioning** methods instantiate certain variables and evaluate a polytree for each possible instantiation.
- **Stochastic simulation** approximate the beliefs by generating a large number of concrete models that are consistent with the evidence and CPTs.



Clustering Methods

- Creating meganodes until the network becomes a polytree.
- Most effective approach for exact evaluation of multiply connected BNs.
- The tricky part is choosing the right meganodes.
- Q. What happens to the NP-hardness of the inference problem?



Cutset Conditioning Methods

- Once a variable is instantiated it can be duplicated and thus "break" a cycle.
- A cutset is a set of variables whose instantiation makes the graph a polytree.
- Each polytree's likelihood is used as a weight when combining the results.

Networks Created by Instantiation

Eliminate Cloudy from BN; Sum(%Cloudy+,%Cloud-)



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Stochastic Simulation --Direct Sampling

- Assign each root node (without parents) a value based on prior probability.
- Assign all other nodes a NULL "value".
- Pick a node X with no value, but whose parents have values, and randomly assign a value to X
 - using P(X|Parents(X)) as the distribution. Repeat until there is no such X.
- After N trials, P(X|E) can be estimated by occurrences (X and E) / occurrences (E).
 - Approximate P(X,E)/P(E)
 - Does not focus on generating occurrences of E















Stochastic Simulation cont.

- Problem with very unlikely events.
- Likelihood weighting can be used to fix problem.
- Likelihood weighting converges much faster than logic sampling and works well for very large networks.

Example of Likelihood Weighting

P(WetGrass | Rain)



- Choose a value for *Cloudy* with prior *P*(*Cloudy*) = 0.5.
 Assume we choose *cloudy* = *false*.
- Choose a value for *Sprinkler*. We see that *P(Sprinkler* | ¬ *Cloudy*) = 0.5, so we randomly choose a value given that distribution. Assume we choose *Sprinkler* =*True*.
- Look at *Rain*. This is an evidence variable that has been set to *True*, so we look at the table to see that *P*(*Rain* | ¬ *Cloudy*) = 0.2. This run therefore counts as 0.2 of a complete run.

Example of Likelihood Weighty cont'd

- Look at *WetGrass*. Choose randomly with *P* (*WetGrass* | *Sprinkler*=*T* ∧*Rain*=*T*) =0.99; assume we choose *WetGrass* = *True*.
- We now have completed a run with likelihood 0.2 that says *WetGrass = True* given *Rain = True*. The next run will result in a different likelihood, and (possibly) a different value for *WetGrass*. We continue until we have accumulated enough runs, and then add up the evidence for each value, weighted by the likelihood score.

Likelihood weighting usually converges much faster than logic sampling

Still takes a long time to reach accurate probabilities for unlikely events

Stochastic Simulation – Likelihood Weighting

Idea: fix evidence variables, sample only nonevidence variables, and weight each sample by the likelihood it accords the evidence

```
function LIKELIHOOD-WEIGHTING(X, e, bn, N) returns an estimate of P(X|e)
local variables: W, a vector of weighted counts over X, initially zero
for j = 1 to N do
x, w \leftarrow WEIGHTED-SAMPLE(bn)
W[x] \leftarrow W[x] + w where x is the value of X in x
return NORMALIZE(W[X])
```

```
function WEIGHTED-SAMPLE(bn, e) returns an event and a weight

\mathbf{x} \leftarrow an event with n elements; w \leftarrow 1

for i = 1 to n do ; for all nodes in the network ordered by parents

if X_i has a value x_i in e ; if you are at the node that you have evidence for
```

then $w \leftarrow w \times P(X_i = x_i | Parents(X_i))$; adjust likelihood of this run based on the else $x_i \leftarrow a$ random sample from $P(X_i | Parents(X_i))$; otherwise randomly choose based on value of parents chosen in previous steps











Stochastic Simulation – Markov Chain Monte Carlo



A node is conditionally independent of all other nodes in the network given its parents, children, and children's parents —that is, given its **Markov blanket**.

The MCMC algorithm

- MCMC generates each event by making a random change to the preceding event.
 - It is therefore helpful to think of the network being in a particular *current state* specifying a value for every variable.
- The next state is generated by randomly sampling a value for one of the non-evidence variables X_i, conditioned on the current values of the variables in the Markov blanket of X_i.
 - Don't need to look at any other variables
- MCMC therefore wanders randomly around the state space—the space of possible complete assignments—flipping one variable at a time but keeping the evidence variables fixed.

The Markov chain

With Sprinkler = true, WetGrass = true, there are four states:



Wander about for a while, average what you see

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Markov blanket sampling

Markov blanket of Cloudy is Sprinkler and Rain Markov blanket of Rain is Cloudy, Sprinkler, and WetGrass



Probability given the Markov blanket is calculated as follows: $P(x'_i|MB(X_i)) = P(x'_i|Parents(X_i))\prod_{Z_j \in Children(X_i)}P(z_j|Parents(Z_j))$

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MCMC example cont.

Estimate $\mathbf{P}(Rain|Sprinkler = true, WetGrass = true)$

Sample *Cloudy* or *Rain* given its Markov blanket, repeat. Count number of times *Rain* is true and false in the samples.

E.g., visit 100 states 31 have Rain = true, 69 have Rain = false

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}(Rain|Sprinkler = true, WetGrass = true) = NORMALIZE(\langle 31, 69 \rangle) = \langle 0.31, 0.69 \rangle$$

Theorem: chain approaches stationary distribution: long-run fraction of time spent in each state is exactly proportional to its posterior probability

Summary of a Belief Networks

- **Conditional independence** information is a vital and robust way to structure information about an uncertain domain.
- Belief networks are a natural way to represent conditional independence information.
 - The links between nodes represent the qualitative aspects of the domain, and the conditional probability tables represent the quantitative aspects.
- A belief network is a complete representation for the joint probability distribution for the domain, but is often
 exponentially smaller in size.

Summary of a Belief Networks, cont'd

- Inference in belief networks means computing the probability distribution of a set of query variables, given a set of evidence variables.
- Belief networks can reason causally, diagnostically, in mixed mode, or intercausally. No other uncertain reasoning mechanism can handle all these modes.
- The complexity of belief network inference depends on the network structure. In **polytrees** (singly connected networks), the computation time is linear in the size of the network.

Summary of a Belief Networks, cont'd

- There are various inference techniques for general belief networks, all of which have exponential complexity in the worst case.
 - In real domains, the local structure tends to make things more feasible, but care is needed to construct a tractable network with more than a hundred nodes.
- It is also possible to use approximation techniques, including **stochastic simulation**, to get an estimate of the true probabilities with less computation.



Introduction to Decision Theory

Making Single-Shot Decisions

Utility Theory