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Data Mining and Machine Learning January–May 2022

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D-Separation

• Check if $X \perp Y \mid Z$

- Dependence should be blocked on every trail from X to Y
 - Each undirected path from X to Y is a sequence of basic trails
 - For (a), (b), (c), need Z present
 - For (d), need Z absent
 - In general, V-structure includes descendants of the bottom node
- x and y are D-separated given z if all trails are blocked
- Variation of breadth first search (BFS) to check if y is reachable from x through some trail
- Extends to sets each $x \in X$ is D-separated from each $y \in Y$



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■ *MB*(*X*) — Markov blanket of *X*



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 Parents(X)



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- $\blacksquare X \perp \neg MB(X) \mid MB(X)$



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- Want $P(b \mid m, j)$
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- Use chain rule to evaluate joint probabilities
- Reorder variables appropriately, topological order of graph



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- Use dynamic programming to avoid duplicated computations
- However, exact inference is NP-complete, in general
- Instead, approximate inference through sampling



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 (b, e, a, m, j), count to estimate probabilities



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- Random samples should respect conditional probabilities
- Fix *MB*(*x*) before generating *x*
- Generate in topological order
 - Generate b, e with probabilities P(b) and P(e)
 - Generate *a* with probability *P*(*a* | *b*, *e*)
 - Generate *j*, *m* with probabilities *P*(*j* | *a*), *P*(*m* | *a*)



• We are interested in $P(b \mid j, m)$



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- We are interested in $P(b \mid j, m)$
- Samples with $\neg i$ or $\neg m$ are useless
- Can we sample more efficiently?



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- Immediately stop and reject this sample — rejection sampling



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- If we start with ¬*Cloudy*, sample is useless
- Immediately stop and reject this sample rejection sampling
- General problem with low probability situation — lots of samples



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$$P(r \mid c, w) = \frac{\sum_{s_i \text{ has rain } w_i}}{\sum_{1 \le j \le N} w_j}$$



Markov chains

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