Exact Inference in Graphical Models

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CS 159

(with materials from lectures by Stefano Ermon, Zoubin Gharamani, Bert Huang)

Recap: Graphical Model Representation

Bayesian Networks

Directed Acyclic Graph, a.k.a Belief Networks



p(l,g,i,d,s) = p(l|g)p(g|i,d)p(i)p(d)p(s|i)

Markov Random Fields

- Example: voting preference in social networks
- Assign scores to each assignment to these variables and then define a probability as a normalized score



 $\tilde{p}(A, B, C, D) = \phi(A, B)\phi(B, C)\phi(C, D)\phi(D, A),$

 $\phi(X,Y) = \begin{cases} 10 & \text{if } X = Y = 1\\ 5 & \text{if } X = Y = 0\\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

$$p(A, B, C, D) = \frac{1}{Z}\tilde{p}(A, B, C, D),$$

where

$$Z = \sum_{A,B,C,D} \tilde{p}(A,B,C,D)$$

Markov Random Fields

A MRF is a probability distribution p over variables x_1, \ldots, x_n defined by an undirected graph G with nodes correspond to x_i

$$p(x_1, ..., x_n) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{c \in C} \phi_c(x_c),$$

where C is set of cliques

$$Z = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_n} \prod_{c \in C} \phi_c(x_c)$$



Factor Graph Representation

 $p(A, B, C, D) \propto \phi_1(A, B)\phi_2(B, C)\phi_3(C, D)\phi_4(D, A)$



graphical model



factor graph

Factor Graph Representation



...instead of



 \mathbf{D}

Probabilistic Inference

- Let (E,F) be disjoint subset of node indices of a graphical model. Two basic kinds of inference problems:
 - Marginal probability inference

$$p(x_E) = \sum p(x_E, x_F)$$

• Maximum a posteriori (MAP) inference

$$p^*(x_E) = \max_{x_F} p(x_E, x_F)$$

• Conditional probability $p(x_F|x_E)$

$$p(x_F|x_E) = \frac{p(x_E, x_F)}{\sum_{x_F} p(x_E, x_F)}$$

• Combining conditioning and marginalization $p(x_F|x_E) = \frac{p(x_E, x_F)}{\sum f(x_E, x_F)} = \frac{\sum_{x_H} p(x_E, x_F, x_H)}{\sum f(x_E, x_F, x_H)}$

$$(x_F|x_E) = \frac{p(x_E, x_F)}{\sum_{x_F} p(x_E, x_F)} = \frac{\sum_{x_H} p(x_E, x_F, x_H)}{\sum_{x_F} \sum_{x_H} p(x_E, x_F, x_H)}$$

Inference + Learning



Inference + Learning



Roadmap

- Overview of Graphical Model, Inference and Learning, Structured Predictions
- Conditional Random Field and applications
- Graphical Model Inference
 - Exact Inference: Message Passing
 - Approximate Inference: LP Relaxation
 - More approximate inference: Sampling-based methods, Variational Inference
- Graphical Model Learning: Parameter learning & structure learning
- Structured Predictions: Structured SVMs, random forests, deep structured models
- Advanced topics that combine inference and learning

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Exact Inference: Message Passing



Variable Elimination

$$X_1 \longrightarrow X_2 \longrightarrow X_3 \longrightarrow \bullet \bullet \bullet \longrightarrow X_n$$

$$p(x_1, ..., x_n) = p(x_1) \prod_{i=2}^n p(x_i \mid x_{i-1}).$$

Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_n)$

Naive Method:

$$p(x_n) = \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_{n-1}} p(x_1, ..., x_n).$$

Variable Elimination $x_1 \longrightarrow x_2 \longrightarrow x_3 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow x_n$ $p(x_1, ..., x_n) = p(x_1) \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i \mid x_{i-1}).$

Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_n)$

More efficient method:

$$p(x_n) = \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_{n-1}} p(x_1) \prod_{i=2}^n p(x_i \mid x_{i-1})$$

=
$$\sum_{x_{n-1}} p(x_n \mid x_{n-1}) \sum_{x_{n-2}} p(x_{n-1} \mid x_{n-2}) \cdots \sum_{x_1} p(x_2 \mid x_1) p(x_1)$$

$$\underbrace{m_{12}(x_2)}$$

$$p(x_n) = \sum_{x_{n-1}} p(x_n \mid x_{n-1}) \sum_{x_{n-2}} p(x_{n-1} \mid x_{n-2}) \cdots \sum_{x_2} p(x_3 \mid x_2) m_{12}(x_2).$$

Variable Elimination $x_1 \longrightarrow x_2 \longrightarrow x_3 \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow x_n$ $p(x_1, ..., x_n) = p(x_1) \prod_{i=2}^n p(x_i \mid x_{i-1}).$

Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_n)$

More efficient method:

$$p(x_n) = \sum_{x_{n-1}} p(x_n \mid x_{n-1}) \sum_{x_{n-2}} p(x_{n-1} \mid x_{n-2}) \cdots \sum_{x_2} p(x_3 \mid x_2) m_{12}(x_2)$$

= ...
= $m_{(n-1)n}(x_n)$

Variable Elimination



Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_5)$ $p(x) = \frac{1}{Z}\phi_{12}(x_1, x_2)\phi_{23}(x_2, x_3)\phi_{34}(x_3, x_4)\phi_{35}(x_3, x_5)$ Elimination order: (1,2,4,3)

Variable Elimination

$$p(x_{5}) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{x_{3}} \phi_{35}(x_{3}, x_{5}) \sum_{x_{4}} \phi_{34}(x_{3}, x_{4}) \sum_{x_{2}} \phi_{23}(x_{2}, x_{3}) \sum_{x_{1}} \phi_{12}(x_{1}, x_{2}) \sum_{x_{1}} \phi_{12}(x_{1}, x_{2})$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{x_{3}} \phi_{35}(x_{3}, x_{5}) \sum_{x_{4}} \phi_{34}(x_{3}, x_{4}) \sum_{x_{2}} \phi_{23}(x_{2}, x_{3}) m_{12}(x_{2})$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{x_{3}} \phi_{35}(x_{3}, x_{5}) \sum_{x_{4}} \phi_{34}(x_{3}, x_{4}) m_{23}(x_{3})$$

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$$= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{x_{3}} \phi_{35}(x_{3}, x_{5}) m_{23}(x_{3}) m_{43}(x_{3})$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} m_{35}(x_{5})$$

Variable Elimination Algorithm



1. Place all potentials $\phi_C(x_C)$ on the active list

- 2. choose an ordering I of the indices (1, 2, 4, 3)
- 3. for each x_i in I

A. find all potentials on the active list that reference x_i and remove them from the active list

B. define a new potential as the sum (w.r.t x_i) of the product of these potentials

C. place the new potential on the active list

4. return the product of the remaining potentials

Variable Elimination

- Two key operations for factors: **product** and **sum** (marginalization)
- Orderings: matters a lot. NP hard to find the best. Common heuristics: min-neighbors, min-weight, min-fill
- Running time: $O(nd^M)$, where M is the max size of any factor during elimination
- Introducing evidence: $P(Y|E = e) = \frac{P(Y, E = e)}{P(E = e)}$ where P(X, Y, E) is the joint, query variables Y, observed E, and unobserved variables X
 - perform variable elimination once on P(Y,E=e) and once more on P(E=e)

Variable Elimination as Message Passing



Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_5)$ and $p(x_3)$ $p(x) = \frac{1}{Z}\phi_{12}(x_1, x_2)\phi_{23}(x_2, x_3)\phi_{34}(x_3, x_4)\phi_{35}(x_3, x_5)$ Elimination order $p(x_5)$: (1,2,4,3) Elimination order $p(x_3)$: (1,2,5,4)

Variable Elimination as Message Passing



Inference Goal: calculate $p(x_5)$ and $p(x_3)$ $p(x) = \frac{1}{Z}\phi_{12}(x_1, x_2)\phi_{23}(x_2, x_3)\phi_{34}(x_3, x_4)\phi_{35}(x_3, x_5)$ Elimination order $p(x_5)$: (1,2,4,3) Elimination order $p(x_4)$: (1,2,5,4)

m₃₅(x₅) Problem: Naive method wasteful and computationally burdensome

Solution: Reuse intermediate terms efficiently!



At each step, eliminate \boldsymbol{x}_j by

$$f_k(x_k) = \sum_{x_j} \phi(x_k, x_j) f_j(x_j)$$

where x_k is parent of x_j in the tree $f_j(xj)$ is a message that x_j sends to x_k to summarize all it knows about its children



Now compute $p(x_k)$ as well:

Key insight:

 $\begin{array}{l} messages \; x_k \; will \; receive \; from \; x_j \\ will \; the \; same \; as \; when \; x_i \; was \; the \; root \end{array}$



How do we compute all the message we need?

Solution:

A node x_i sends a message to a neighbor x_j whenever it has received messages from all nodes beside x_j







Forward-Backward in HMM





Forward-Backward in HMM



Inference in Hidden Markov Models and Linear Gaussian state-space models



$$p(X_{1,...,T}, Y_{1,...,T}) = p(X_1)p(Y_1|X_1)\prod_{t=2}^T [p(X_t|X_{t-1})p(Y_t|X_t)]$$

- In HMMs, the states X_t are discrete.
- In linear Gaussian SSMs, the states are real Gaussian vectors.
- Both HMMs and SSMs can be represented as singly connected DAGs.
- The forward-backward algorithm in hidden Markov models (HMMs), and the Kalman smoothing algorithm in SSMs are both instances of belief propagation / factor graph propagation.







$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \qquad b_t(x_t) \propto \prod_{s \in \text{neighbors}(t)} m_{t \to s}(x_s)$$
$$b_t(x_t) \propto \prod_{s \in \text{neighbors}(t)} m_{t \to s}(x_s)$$
$$b_b(x_b) \propto (m_{A \to B}(x_B))(m_{C \to B}(x_B))(m_{D \to B}(x_B))$$
$$m_{s \to t}(x_t) := \sum_{x_s} \left(\phi_{st}(x_s, x_t) \prod_{u \in \text{neighbors}(s) \setminus t} m_{u \to s}(x_s) \right)$$
$$m_{B \to D}(x_D) = \sum_{x_B} \phi(x_B, x_D) \times m_{A \to B}(x_B) \times m_{C \to B}(x_B)$$

Sum-Product Message Passing

- While there is node $x_{\rm s}$ ready to transmit to $x_{\rm t},$ send the message

$$m_{s \to t}(x_t) := \sum_{x_s} \left(\phi(x_s) \phi(x_s, x_t) \prod_{u \in \mathcal{N}(s) - t} m_{u \to s}(x_s) \right)$$

• After computing all messages, any marginal query can be computed in O(1):

$$p(x_t) \equiv b_t(x_t) \propto \prod_{s \in \mathcal{N}(t)} m_{t \to s}(x_s)$$

Sum-Product Messages

- Function of receiving node's variable
- Vectors for discrete variables
- Should be normalized (by taking log)
- Alternate form explicitly encodes unary and pairwise potentials

$$p(\mathbf{x}) \propto \prod_{s \in \mathcal{V}} \phi_s(x_s) \prod_{(s,t) \in \mathcal{E}} \phi_{st}(x_s, x_t)$$

Max-Product Message Passing

Consider MAP query

$$\max_{x_1,...,x_n} p(x_1,...,x_n)$$

Chain MRF, partition function

$$Z = \sum_{x_1} \cdots \sum_{x_n} \phi(x_1) \prod_{i=2}^n \phi(x_i, x_{i-1})$$

= $\sum_{x_n} \sum_{x_{n-1}} \phi(x_n, x_{n-1}) \sum_{x_{n-2}} \phi(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}) \cdots \sum_{x_1} \phi(x_2, x_1) \phi(x_1).$

To compute the mode of $\tilde{p}(x_1,...,x_n)$

$$\tilde{p}^* = \max_{x_1} \cdots \max_{x_n} \phi(x_1) \prod_{i=2}^n \phi(x_i, x_{i-1})$$

=
$$\max_{x_n} \max_{x_{n-1}} \phi(x_n, x_{n-1}) \max_{x_{n-2}} \phi(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}) \cdots \max_{x_1} \phi(x_2, x_1) \phi(x_1).$$

Message Passing

- a.k.a Belief Propagation (BP)
- Trees: Guaranteed to converge to marginals
- Trees: Takes just one update per message
- Guarantees not as nice in non-trees
 - only provably converges on trees and on graphs with at most one cycle
 - general graph: treat loopy BP as approximate inference

Junction Tree Algorithm

Main idea: Turn graph into a tree of clusters that are amenable to the variable elimination algorithm

A junction tree $T = (C, E_T)$ over $G = (\mathcal{X}, E_G)$ is a tree whose nodes $c \in C$ are associated with subsets $x_c \in \mathcal{X}$ of the graph vertices (i.e. sets of variables); the junction tree must satisfy the following properties:

Family preservation: For each factor ϕ , there exists a cluster c such that $Scope[\phi] \subset x_c$ Running intersection: for every pair of clusters $c^{(i)}, c^{(j)}$, every cluster on the path between $c^{(i)}, c^{(j)}$ contains $x_c^{(i)} \cap x_c^{(j)}$



Junction Tree Algorithm



Redefine potential $\psi_c(x_c) =$ product of all the factors ϕ in G that have been assigned to c

$$p(x_1, ..., x_n) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{c \in C} \psi_c(x_c).$$

Message Passing between Clique Potentials

• Choose a pair of adjacent clusters c(i), c(j) in T and compute a message whose scope if the sep-set Sij between the two clusters

$$m_{i \to j}(S_{ij}) = \sum_{x_c \setminus S_{ij}} \psi(x_c) \prod_{\ell \in N(i) \setminus j} m_{\ell \to i}(S_{\ell i})$$

• Belief computation: define the belief of each cluster based on all the messages that it receives

$$\beta_c(x_c) = \psi(x_c) \prod_{\ell \in N(i)} m_{\ell \to i}(S_{\ell i}).$$

• Finally marginalizing out the variables in its belief

$$\widetilde{p}(x) \propto \sum_{x_c \setminus x} \beta_c(x_c)$$

Finding A Good Junction Tree

- Again NP-Hard
 - By hand: Typically, our models will have a very regular structure, for which there will be an obvious solution. For example, very often our model is a grid, in which case clusters will be associated with pairs of adjacent rows (or columns) in the grid
 - Using variable elimination: One can show that running the VE elimination algorithm implicitly generates a junction tree over the variables. Thus it is possible to use the heuristics we previously discussed to define this ordering