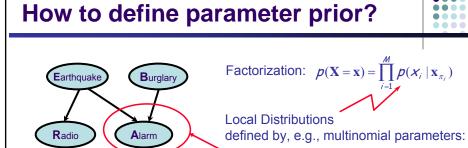
MLE for general BNs



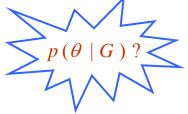
 If we assume the parameters for each CPD are globally independent, and all nodes are fully observed, then the loglikelihood function decomposes into a sum of local terms, one per node:

$$\ell(\theta; D) = \log p(D \mid \theta) = \log \prod_{\substack{x_2 \\ 0 \text{ 1}}} \left(\prod_i p(x_{n,i} \mid \mathbf{X}_{n,\pi_i}, \theta_i) \right) = \sum_i \left(\sum_n \log p(x_{n,i} \mid \mathbf{X}_{n,\pi_i}, \theta_i) \right)$$



Call

 $p(\mathbf{x}_{i}^{k} \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}}^{j}) = \theta_{\mathbf{x}_{i}^{k} \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}}^{j}}$



Global & Local Parameter Independence



Burglary

Alarm

Earthquake

Global Parameter Independence

For <u>every</u> DAG model:

$$p(\theta \mid G) = \prod_{i=1}^{M} p(\theta_i \mid G)$$

Local Parameter Independence

For every node:

$$p(\theta_i \mid G) = \prod_{j=1}^{q_i} p(\theta_{x_i^k \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i}^j} \mid G)$$

The Bayesian posterior

$$\begin{split} P(\theta \big| D, G) &\propto P(D \,|\, \theta) P(\theta \,|\, G) \\ &= \prod_{i,j} p(x_i \,|\, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i}^j, \theta_{i,j}) P(\theta_{i,j} \,|\, G) \end{split}$$

Eric Xing

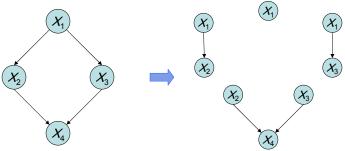
Example: decomposable likelihood of a directed model



• Consider the distribution defined by the directed acyclic GM:

$$p(x \mid \theta) = p(x_1 \mid \theta_1) p(x_2 \mid x_1, \theta_1) p(x_3 \mid x_1, \theta_3) p(x_4 \mid x_2, x_3, \theta_1)$$

 This is exactly like learning four separate small BNs, each of which consists of a node and its parents.



MLE for BNs with tabular CPDs



• Assume each CPD is represented as a table (multinomial)

$$\theta_{ijk} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p(X_i = j \mid X_{\pi_i} = k)$$

- Note that in case of multiple parents, \mathbf{X}_{π_i} will have a composite state, and the CPD will be a high-dimensional table
- The sufficient statistics are counts of family configurations

es are counts of far
$$n_{iik} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n} x_{n,i}^{j} x_{n,\pi_{i}}^{k}$$

The log-likelihood is

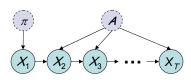
$$\ell(\theta; D) = \log \prod_{i,j,k} \theta_{ijk}^{n_{ijk}} = \sum_{i,j,k} \eta_{ijk} \log \theta_{ijk}$$

• Using a Lagrange multiplier to enforce $\sum_{j} \theta_{ijk} = 1$, we get: $\theta_{ijk}^{ML} = \frac{n_{ijk}}{\sum_{ijk} n_{ij'k}}$

$$\theta_{ijk}^{ML} = \frac{n_{ijk}}{\sum_{i:i'k} n_{ij'k}}$$

Parameter sharing





- Consider a time-invariant (stationary) 1st-order Markov model
 - Initial state probability vector:
 - State transition probability matrix: $A_{ij}^{\text{def}} = p(X_i^j = 1 \mid X_{i-1}^i = 1)$
- $p(X_{1:T} \mid \theta) = p(x_1 \mid \pi) \prod_{t=2}^{T} \prod_{t=2} p(X_t \mid X_{t-1})$ The joint:
- $\ell(\theta; D) = \sum_{n} \log p(x_{n,1} | \pi) + \sum_{n} \sum_{n=1}^{T} \log p(x_{n,t} | x_{n,t-1}, A)$ The log-likelihood:
- Again, we optimize each parameter separately
 - π is a multinomial frequency vector, and we've seen it before
 - What about A?

Learning a Markov chain transition matrix



- A is a stochastic matrix: $\sum_{i} A_{ij} = 1$
- Each row of A is multinomial distribution.
- So MLE of A_{ii} is the fraction of transitions from i to j

$$A_{ij}^{ML} = \frac{\#(i \to j)}{\#(i \to \bullet)} = \frac{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=2}^{T} x_{n,t-1}^{i} x_{n,t}^{j}}{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=2}^{T} x_{n,t-1}^{i}}$$

- Application:
 - if the states X_t represent words, this is called a bigram language model
- Sparse data problem:
 - If i → j did not occur in data, we will have A_{ij} =0, then any futher sequence with word pair i → j will have zero probability.
 - A standard hack: backoff smoothing or deleted interpolation

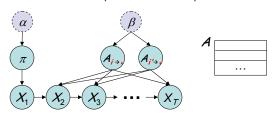
$$\widetilde{A}_{i\to\bullet} = \lambda \eta_t + (1-\lambda) A_{i\to\bullet}^{ML}$$

Eric Xino

Bayesian language model



• Global and local parameter independence



- The posterior of $A_{i op \cdot}$ and $A_{i' op \cdot}$ is factorized despite v-structure on X_{t} because X_{t-1} acts like a multiplexer
- Assign a Dirichlet prior β_i to each row of the transition matrix:

$$A_{ij}^{\textit{Bayes}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p(j \mid i, D, \beta_i) = \frac{\#(i \to j) + \beta_{i,k}}{\#(i \to \bullet) + \left|\beta_i\right|} = \lambda_i \beta_{i,k}' + (1 - \lambda_i) A_{ij}^{\textit{ML}}, \text{ where } \lambda_i = \frac{\left|\beta_i\right|}{\left|\beta_i\right| + \#(i \to \bullet)}$$

 We could consider more realistic priors, e.g., mixtures of Dirichlets to account for types of words (adjectives, verbs, etc.)

Example: HMM: two scenarios



- Supervised learning: estimation when the "right answer" is known
 - **Examples:**

GIVEN: a genomic region x = $x_1...x_{1,000,000}$ where we have good (experimental) annotations of the CpG islands

GIVEN: the casino player allows us to observe him one evening,

as he changes dice and produces 10,000 rolls

- **Unsupervised learning**: estimation when the "right answer" is unknown
 - **Examples:**

GIVEN: the porcupine genome; we don't know how frequent are the

CpG islands there, neither do we know their composition

GIVEN: 10,000 rolls of the casino player, but we don't see when he

changes dice

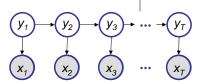
- **QUESTION:** Update the parameters θ of the model to maximize $P(x|\theta)$ -
 - -- Maximal likelihood (ML) estimation

Recall definition of HMM



· Transition probabilities between any two states

$$p(y_t^j = 1 | y_{t-1}^i = 1) = a_{i,j}$$



or
$$p(y_t | y_{t-1}^i = 1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(a_{i,1}, a_{i,2}, ..., a_{i,M}), \forall i \in I.$$

Start probabilities

$$p(y_1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(\pi_1, \pi_2, ..., \pi_M)$$
.

• Emission probabilities associated with each state

$$p(x_t \mid y_t^i = 1) \sim \text{Multinomial}(b_{i,1}, b_{i,2}, \dots, b_{i,K}), \forall i \in I.$$

 $p(x_t | y_t^i = 1) \sim f(\cdot | \theta_i), \forall i \in I.$ or in general:





- Given $x = x_1...x_N$ for which the true state path $y = y_1...y_N$ is known,
 - Define:

 A_{ij} = # times state transition $i \rightarrow j$ occurs in y B_{ik} = # times state i in y emits k in x

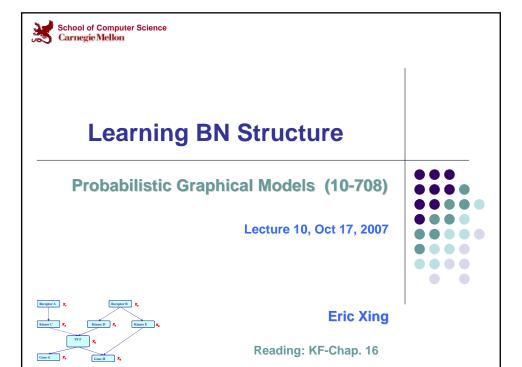
• We can show that the maximum likelihood parameters θ are:

$$a_{ij}^{ML} = \frac{\#(i \to j)}{\#(i \to \bullet)} = \frac{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=2}^{T} y_{n,t-1}^{i} y_{n,t}^{j}}{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=2}^{T} y_{n,t-1}^{i}} = \frac{A_{ij}}{\sum_{j} A_{ij}}$$

$$b_{ik}^{ML} = \frac{\#(i \to k)}{\#(i \to \bullet)} = \frac{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=1}^{T} y_{n,t}^{i} x_{n,t}^{k}}{\sum_{n} \sum_{t=1}^{T} y_{n,t}^{i}} = \frac{B_{ik}}{\sum_{k'} B_{ik'}}$$

• What if x is continuous? We can treat $\{(x_{n,t},y_{n,t}): t=1:T, n=1:N\}$ as $\mathbb{A} \times \mathbb{T}$ observations of, e.g., a Gaussian, and apply learning rules for Gaussian ...

Fric Xino







ML Structural Learning for completely observed GMs



$$(x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)})$$

 $(x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_n^{(2)})$
 \dots

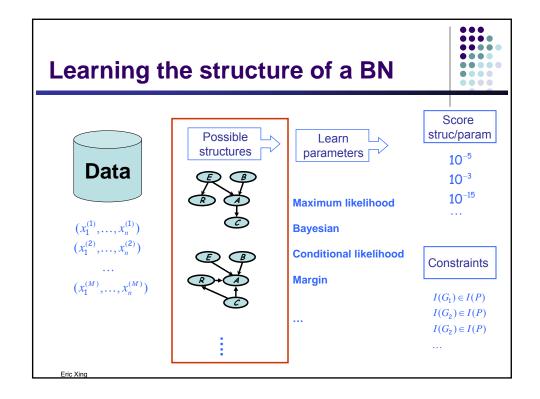
 $(x_1^{(M)},\ldots,x_n^{(M)})$

Eric Xing

Where are we now on the map?



- · Graphical models
 - Bayesian networks
 - Undirected models
 - Conditional independence statements + factorization law of joint dist.
- Exact inference in GMs
 - Variable elimination <=> Graph elimination
 - Sum-product on tree, factor tree, clique tree
 - Very fast for models with low tree-width
- Learning GMs
 - Given structure, estimate parameters
 - Maximum likelihood estimation (just counts for BNs)
 - Bayesian learning
 - MAP for Bayesian learning
- What about learning structure?



Learning the structure of a BN



- Constraint-based approach
 - BN encodes conditional independencies
 - Test conditional independencies in data
 - Find an I-map
- Score-based approach
 - Finding a structure and parameters is a density estimation task
 - Evaluate model as we evaluated parameters
 - Maximum likelihood
 - Bayesian
 - etc.

Recall P-Map



- Defn (3.4.3): We say that a graph object G is a perfect map
 (P-map) for a set of independencies I if we have that I(G) = I.
 We say that G is a perfect map for P if I(G) = I(P).
 - Not all P has a perfect map as DAG!
 - The P-map of a distribution *is* unique up to I-equivalence between networks. That is, a distribution P can have many P-maps, but all of them are I-equivalent.
 - The P-DAG algorithm
- Constraint-based approach:
 - Key question: Independence test

Fric Xino

Constraint-based approach: Independence tests



- Statistically difficult task!
- Intuitive approach:
 - Mutual information

$$I(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{x_i, x_j} \log P(x_i, x_j) \frac{P(x_i, x_j)}{P(x_i)P(x_j)}$$

- Mutual information and independence:
 - X_i and X_i are independent if and only if $I(X_i,X_i)=0$
- Conditional mutual information:

Empirical independence tests



- Using the data D

$$\hat{P}(x_i,x_j) = \frac{\mathrm{count}(x_i,x_j)}{M}$$

 • Mutual information:

$$\hat{I}(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{x_i, x_j} \log \hat{P}(x_i, x_j) \frac{\hat{P}(x_i, x_j)}{\hat{P}(x_i) \hat{P}(x_j)}$$

- Similarly for conditional MI
- More generally, use learning PDAG algorithm:
 - When algorithm asks: (X⊥Y|U)?
 - Must check if statistically-significant
 - Choosing t
 - See reading...

Score-based approach:



- Desirable properties of a scoring function
 - **Consistency**: i.e., if the data is generated by G^* , then G and all Iequivalent models maximize the score.
 - Decomposability:

$$Score(G \mid D) = \sum_{i} FamScore(D(X_i \mid X_{\pi_i}))$$

which makes it cheap to compare score of G and G' if they only differ in a small number of families.

• Bayesian score (evidence), likelihood, and penalized likelihood (BIC) are all decomposable and consistent.

Maximizing the score



- Consider the family of DAGs G_d with maximum fan-in (number of parents) equal to d.
- Thm: It is NP-hard to find

$$G^* = \arg\max_{G \in G_d} \operatorname{Score}(G \mid D)$$

for any $d \ge 2$.

- In general, we need to use heuristic local search
 - For d ≤ 1 (i.e., trees), we can solve the problem in O(n²) time using max spanning tree (forthcoming)
 - If we know the ordering of the nodes, we can solve the problem in $O(d\binom{n}{d})$ time

Eric Xing

Information Theoretic Interpretation of ML



$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\ell}(\theta_{G}, G; D) &= \log p(D \mid \theta_{G}, G) \\ &= \log \prod_{n} \left(\prod_{i} p(\boldsymbol{x}_{n,i} \mid \mathbf{x}_{n,\pi_{i}(G)}, \theta_{i \mid \pi_{i}(G)}) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{n} \log p(\boldsymbol{x}_{n,i} \mid \mathbf{x}_{n,\pi_{i}(G)}, \theta_{i \mid \pi_{i}(G)}) \right) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}} \frac{count(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)})}{M} \log p(\boldsymbol{x}_{i} \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}, \theta_{i \mid \pi_{i}(G)}) \right) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}} \hat{p}(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}) \log p(\boldsymbol{x}_{i} \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}, \theta_{i \mid \pi_{i}(G)}) \right) \end{split}$$

From sum over data points to sum over count of variable states

Information Theoretic Interpretation of ML (con'd)



$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\ell}(\theta_{G},G;D) &= \log \hat{p}(D \mid \theta_{G},G) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}} \hat{p}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}) \log \hat{p}(x_{i} \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)},\theta_{i\mid\pi_{i}(G)}) \right) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}} \hat{p}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}) \log \frac{\hat{p}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)},\theta_{i\mid\pi_{i}(G)})}{\hat{p}(\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)})} \frac{\hat{p}(x_{i})}{\hat{p}(x_{i})} \right) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}} \hat{p}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}) \log \frac{\hat{p}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)},\theta_{i\mid\pi_{i}(G)})}{\hat{p}(\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)},\theta_{i\mid\pi_{i}(G)})} \right) - M \sum_{i} \left(\sum_{x_{i}} \hat{p}(x_{i}) \log p(x_{i}) \right) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_{i},\mathbf{x}_{\pi_{i}(G)}) - M \sum_{i} \hat{H}(x_{i}) \end{split}$$

Decomposable score and a function of the graph structure

Eric Xing

Decomposable Score



Log data likelihood

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\ell}(\theta_G, G; D) &= \log \hat{p}(D \mid \theta_G, G) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)}) - M \sum_{i} \hat{H}(x_i) \end{split}$$

- Decomposable score:
 - Decomposes over families in BN (node and its parents)
 - Will lead to significant computational efficiency!!!
 - The score function:

$$Score(G \mid D) = \sum_{i} FamScore(D(X_i \mid X_{\pi_i}))$$

Search space:

Structural Search



- How many graphs over n nodes? $O(2^{n^2})$
- How many trees over n nodes? $O(2^{n \log n})$
- But it turns out that we can find exact solution of an optimal tree (under MLE)!
 - Trick: in a tree each node has only one parent!
 - Chow-liu algorithm

Eric Xino

Scoring a tree 1: equivalent trees







Chow-Liu tree learning algorithm



• Objection function:

$$\ell(\theta_G, G; D) = \log \hat{p}(D \mid \theta_G, G)$$

$$= M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)}) - M \sum_{i} \hat{H}(x_i) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \boxed{C(G) = M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)})}$$

- Chow-Liu:
 - For each pair of variable x_i and x_j

 - Compute empirical distribution: $\hat{p}(X_i, X_j) = \frac{count(x_i, x_j)}{M}$ Compute mutual information: $\hat{I}(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{x_i, x_j} \hat{p}(x_i, x_j) \log \frac{\hat{p}(x_i, x_j)}{\hat{p}(x_i) \hat{p}(x_j)}$
 - Define a graph with node $x_1, ..., x_n$
 - Edge (I,j) gets weight $\hat{I}(X_i, X_j)$

Chow-Liu algorithm (con'd)



• Objection function:

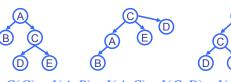
$$\ell(\theta_G, G; D) = \log \hat{p}(D \mid \theta_G, G)$$

$$= M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)}) - M \sum_{i} \hat{H}(x_i) \implies C(G) = M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)})$$

• Chow-Liu:

Optimal tree BN

- · Compute maximum weight spanning tree
- Direction in BN: pick any node as root, do breadth-first-search to define directions
- I-equivalence:



C(G) = I(A,B) + I(A,C) + I(C,D) + I(C,E)

Eric Xing

Extensions of Chow-Liu



- Tree augmented naïve Bayes(TAN) [Friedman et al. '97]
 - Naïve Bayes model overcounts, because correlation between features not considered
 - Tree-augmented feature list
- · Same as Chow-Liu, but score edges w

$$\hat{p}(X_{i}, X_{j} | C) = \frac{count(x_{i}, x_{j} | C)}{M}$$

$$\hat{I}(X_{i}, X_{j}) = \sum_{x_{i}, x_{j}} \hat{p}(x_{i}, x_{j} | C) \log \frac{\hat{p}(x_{i}, x_{j} | C)}{\hat{p}(x_{i} | C) \hat{p}(x_{j} | C)}$$

Structure Learning for general graphs



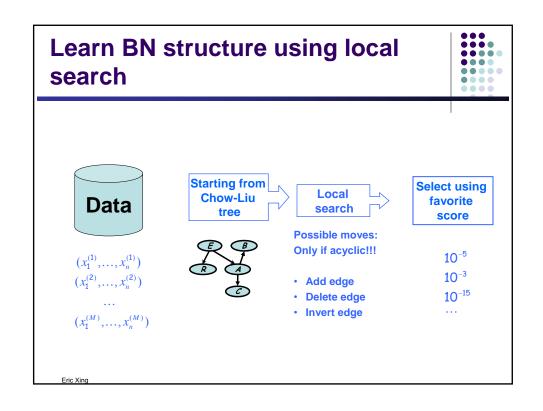
- Theorem:
 - The problem of learning a BN structure with at most d parents is NP-hard for any (fixed) d≥2
- Most structure learning approaches use heuristics
 - Exploit score decomposition
 - Two heuristics that exploit decomposition in different ways
 - Greedy search through space of node-orders
 - Local search of graph structures

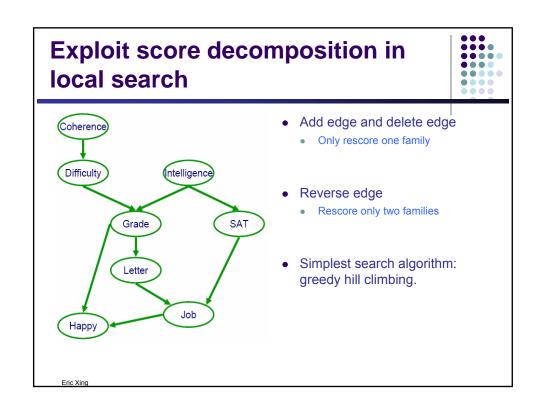
Eric Xino

Known order (K2 algorithm)



- Suppose we a total ordering of the nodes $X_1 \prec X_2 \prec \cdots \prec X_n$ and want to find a DAG consistent with this with maximum score.
 - The choice of parents for X_i, from Pa_i{X₁,...,X_{i-1}}, is independent of the choice for X_i; since we obey the ordering, we cannot create a cycle.
 - Hence we can pick the best set of parents for each node independently.
 - For X_i , we need to search all $\binom{i-1}{d}$ subsets of size up to d for the set which maximizes FamScore.
 - We can use greedy techniques for this, c.f., learning a decision tree.
- What if order isn't known
 - Search in the space of orderings, then conditioned on , pick best graph using K2
 - · Search in the space of DAGs.





Local maxima



- Greedy hill climbing will stop when it reaches a local maximum or a plateau (a set of neighboring networks that have the same score).
- Unfortunately, plateaus are common, since equivalence classes form contiguous regions of search space (thm 14.4.4), and such classes can be exponentially large.
- Solutions:
 - Random restarts
 - TABU search (prevent the algorithm from undoing an operator applied in the last L steps, thereby forcing it to explore new terrain).
 - Data perturbation (dynamic local search): reweight the data and take step.
 - Simulated annealing: if $\delta(o) > 0$, take move, else accept with probability $e^{\delta(o)/t}$, where t is the temperature. Slow!

Eric Xing

Order search versus graph search



- Order search advantages
 - For fixed order, optimal BN -more "global" optimization
 - Space of orders much smaller than space of graphs
- Graph search advantages
 - Not restricted to k parents
 - Especially if exploiting CPD structure, such as CSI
 - Cheaper per iteration
 - Finer moves within a graph

Identifiability



- DAGs are I-equivalent if they encode the same set of conditional independencies
 - e.g., X → Y → Z and X ← Y ← Z are indistinguishable given just observational data.
- However, X → Y ← Z has a v-structure, which has a unique statistical signature. Hence some arc directions can be inferred from passive observation.
- The set of I-equivalent DAGs can be represented by a PDAG (partially directed acyclic graph).
- Distinguishing between members of an equivalence class requires interventions/ experiments.

Eric Xing

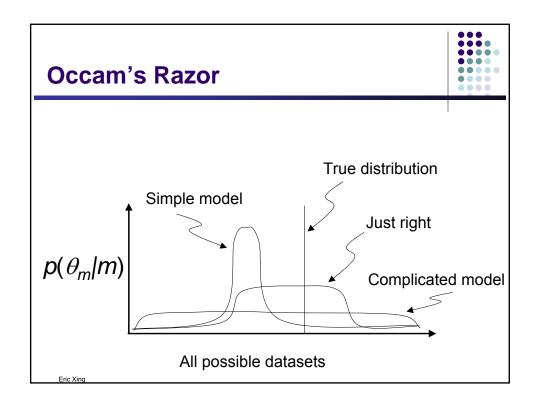
ML score overfits!



$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\ell}(\theta_G, G; D) &= \log \hat{p}(D \mid \theta_G, G) \\ &= M \sum_{i} \hat{I}(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i(G)}) - M \sum_{i} \hat{H}(x_i) \end{aligned}$$

Information never hurts

Adding a parent always increases your score!



Model selection

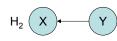


• Three hypotheses





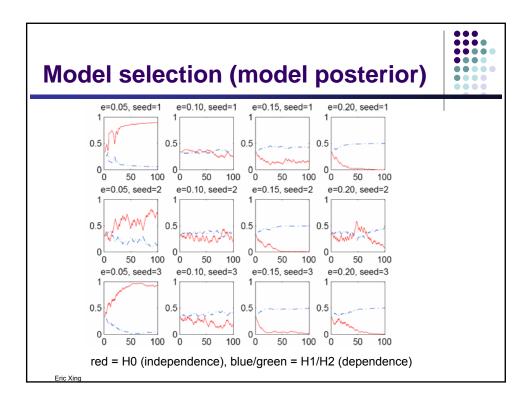




- P(X=1) = 0.5 and $P(Y=1 | X=0) = 0.5 \varepsilon$, $P(Y=1 | X=1) = 0.5 + \varepsilon$
- As we increase , we increase the dependence of Y on X
- $X \leftarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Y$ are I-equivalent (have the same likelihood)
- Suppose we use a uniform Dirichlet prior for each node in each graph, with equivalent pseudo-counts (K2-prior):

$$P(\theta_X \mid H_1) = Dir(\alpha, \alpha)$$
 $P(\theta_{X|Y=i} \mid H_2) = Dir(\alpha, \alpha)$

- In H₁, the equivalent sample size for X is 2, but in H₂ it is 4 (since two conditioning contexts). Hence the posterior probabilities are different.
- Under which H the P(H|D) is higher?



Bayesian model selection



- Why is P(H₀|D) higher when then dependence on X and Y is weak (small)?
 - It is not because the prior P(Hi) explicitly favors simpler models (although this is possible).
 - It because the evidence $P(D) = \int dw P(D/w) P(w)$ automatically penalizes complex models.
- "Occam's razor" says "If two models are equally predictive, prefer the simpler one".
 - This is an automatic consequence of using Bayesian model selection.
 - Maximum likelihood would always pick the most complex model, since it has more parameters, and hence can fit the training data better.
- Good test for a learning algorithm: feed it random noise, see if it "discovers" structure!

Global & Local Parameter Independence



Burglary

Alarm

Call

Earthquake

Global Parameter Independence

For every DAG model:

$$p(\theta \mid G) = \prod_{i=1}^{M} p(\theta_i \mid G) \leq$$

Local Parameter Independence

For every node:

$$p(\theta_i \mid G) = \prod_{j=1}^{q_i} p(\theta_{x_i^k \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i}^j} \mid G)$$

■ The Bayesian score

$$\begin{split} \log P(G|D) &= \log P(G) + \log \int_{\theta} P(D|\theta) P(\theta|G) d\theta + C \\ &= \log P(G) + \sum_{i,j} \int_{\theta_{i,j}} p(x_i \mid \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i}^j, \theta_{i,j}) P(\theta_{i,j} \mid G) d\theta_{i,j} + C \\ &= \log P(G) + C + \sum score(x_i, \mathbf{x}_{\pi_i}) \end{split}$$

Eric Xino

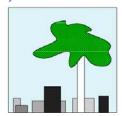
Selection criteria



• BIC (Bayesian Information Criterion):

$$\log P(D) \approx \log P(D \mid \hat{\theta}_{ML}) - \frac{d}{2} \log N$$

• Quiz: How many boxes behind the tree?



- Other criteria:
 - AIC (Akaike Information Criterion):
 - Minimum description length

Consistency of BIC and Bayesian scores



- A scoring function is consistent if, for true model G*, as m→∞, with probability 1
 - G* maximizes the score
 - All structures **not I-equivalent** to *G** have strictly lower score
- Theorem: BIC score is consistent
- Corollary: the Bayesian score is consistent
- What about maximum likelihood score?

Eric Xing

Choice of Priors



- For finite datasets, prior is important!
 - Prior over structure satisfying prior modularity
 - What about prior over parameters, how do we represent it?
 - K2 prior. fix an α , $P(\theta_i | \mathbf{Pa}_{x_i}) = Dirichlet(\alpha,...,\alpha)$
 - K2 is "inconsistent"

BDe prior



- Dirichlet parameters analogous to "fictitious samples"
- Pick a fictitious sample size m'
 - For each possible family, define a prior distribution P(Xi, Pa_{Xi})
 - Represent with a BN
 - Usually independent (product of marginals)
- BDe prior:
 - Has "consistency property"