The Junction Tree Algorithm

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[1]Based on slides by David Barber

Why the Junction Tree Algorithm?

- The JTA is a general-purpose algorithm for computing (conditional) marginals on graphs.
- It does this by creating a tree of cliques, and carrying out a message-passing procedure on this tree
- The best thing about a general-purpose algorithm is that there is no longer any need to publish a separate paper explaining how to deal with each new model – the JTA generalises nearly all the popular previous special case algorithms.
- Reading: Jordan chapter 17

Overview

- Clique Potential Representation
- Constructing a Junction Tree
    - Moralization
    - Triangulation
    - Assembling cliques into a junction tree
- Message Passing
- Introducing Evidence
- Propagation on a Junction Tree
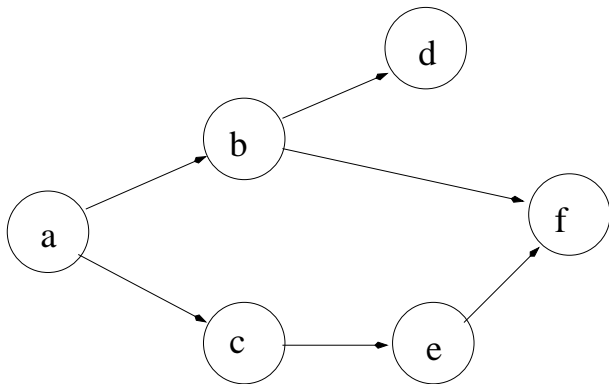
Clique Potential Representation

- Observe that for both directed and undirected graphs, the joint probability is in a product form.

- We can interpret the CPTs in *directed* graphs as potential functions.

- Basic idea is to represent probability distribution corresponding to any graph as a product of clique potentials:

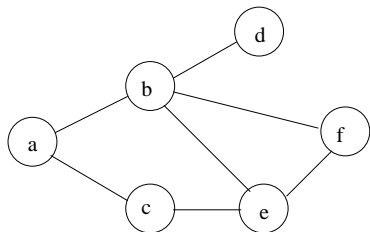$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \Psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

  where $\mathbf{x}_C$ is the set of variables corresponding to clique C.

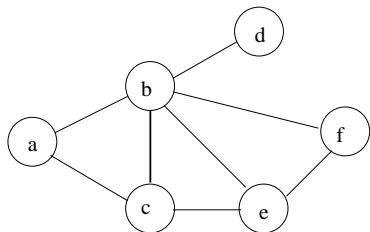- A *clique* is a fully-connected subset of nodes in a graph
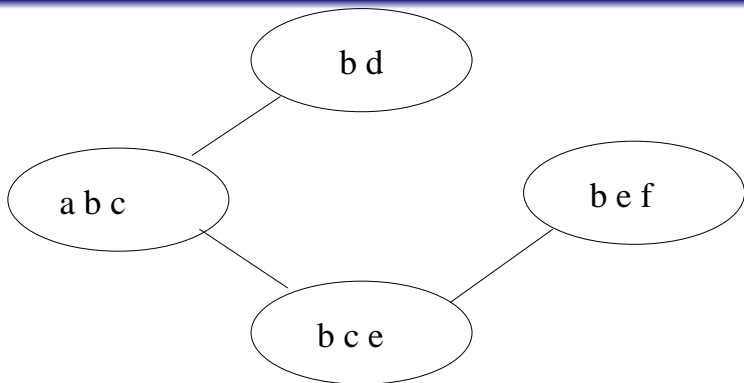
$$p(a, b, c, d, e, f) = p(a)p(b|a)p(c|a)p(d|b)p(e|c)p(f|b, e)$$

Moralization   Triangulation
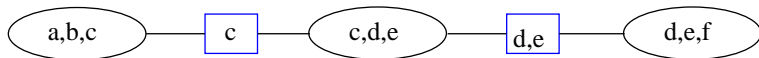
The **clique potential** representation is

$$p(a, b, c, d, e, f) = \Psi(a, b, c)\Psi(b, d)\Psi(b, c, e)\Psi(b, e, f)$$

A valid assignment of cluster potentials is
$\Psi(a, b, c) = p(a)p(b|a)p(c|a)$, $\Psi(b, d) = p(d|b)$,
$\Psi(b, c, e) = p(e|c)$, $\Psi(b, e, f) = p(f|b, e)$ and $Z = 1$

Clique Trees and Separators

A clique tree is an (undirected) tree of cliques

Variables shared by neighbouring cliques are drawn in the separator sets in blue.

The potential representation of a clique tree is the product of the clique potentials, divided by the product of the separator potentials.

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\prod_C \Psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)}{\prod_S \Phi_S(\mathbf{x}_S)}$$

Initially, all separator potentials are set to 1.
After running the JTA, we will have

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$$
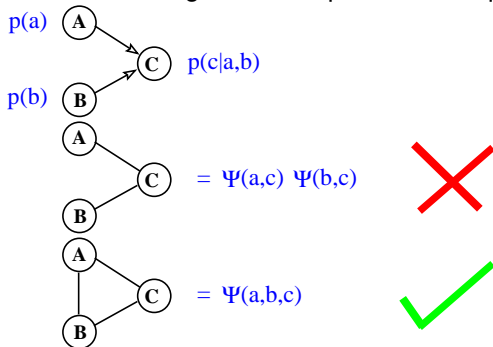$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}_S) = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$$

where $\tilde{C}$ denotes those variables in C that are not in E, and similarly for $\tilde{S}$.

Constructing a Junction Tree from a DAG

1. Moralize the graph
2. Triangulate the graph
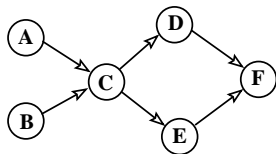3. Construct a junction tree

Moral Graphs

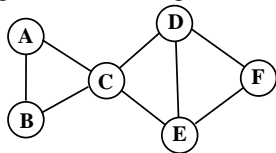Let's represent the following DAG as a product of clique potentials:

To ensure that a node and its parents are in the same clique, we have to *marry* the parents – *moralisation*.

A Moral Example to us all

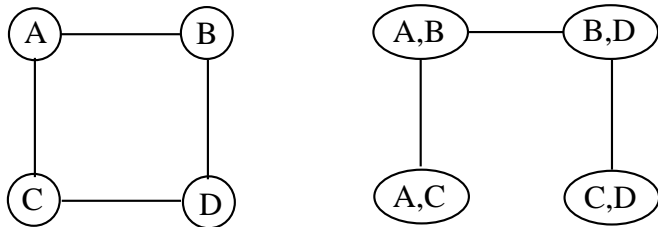After moralisation, we get the following undirected graph

The product of clique potentials is

$$p(a, b, c, d, e, f) = \Psi(a, b, c)\Psi(c, d, e)\Psi(d, e, f)$$

where $\Psi(a, b, c) = p(a)p(b)p(c|a, b)$, $\Psi(c, d, e) = p(d|c)p(e|c)$,
$\Psi(d, e, f) = p(f|d, e)$

The need for triangulation

Consider the following graph and a corresponding clique tree

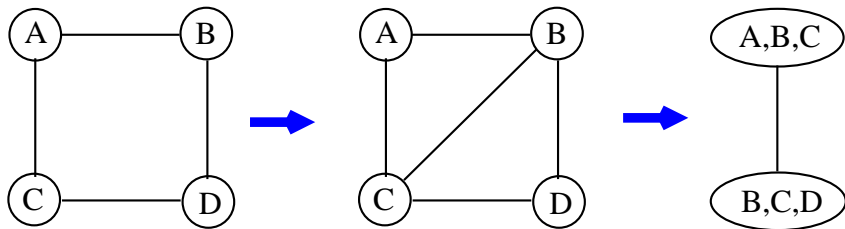*C* appears in two non-neighbouring cliques.

There is no guarantee that marginal on *C* in these two cliques should be equal, i.e $\sum_A \Psi(A, C) = \sum_D \Psi(C, D)$

That is, *local* consistency does not necessarily imply *global* consistency.

Triangulation provides a solution.

Triangulation

In a triangulated graph, all loops containing 4 or more nodes contain a chord:

One way to create a triangulated graph is via the *elimination algorithm* (see Jordan §3.2)

- A clique tree is a junction tree if it has the following junction tree property: if a node appears in two cliques, it appears everywhere on the path between the cliques.
- For every triangulated graph there exists a clique tree which obeys the junction tree property
- Thus local consistency implies global consistency
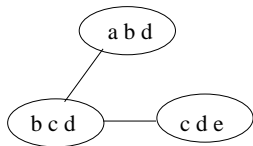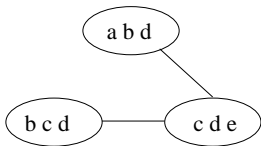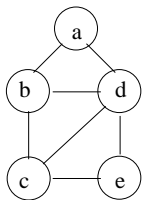
- Not all clique trees are junction trees
- **Theorem** A clique tree is a junction tree iff it is a maximal spanning tree, where the weight is given by the sum of the cardinalities of the separator sets

Message Passing

In order that the cliques contain all information required for marginals of the variables in the clique, we need to enforce *consistency*. That is, if clique V (containing a set of variables) and clique W share variables S, the marginals on their separators must be equal.
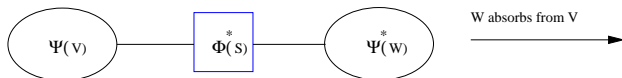
$$\Psi(V) \quad\text{—}\quad \Phi(S) \quad\text{—}\quad \Psi(W)$$
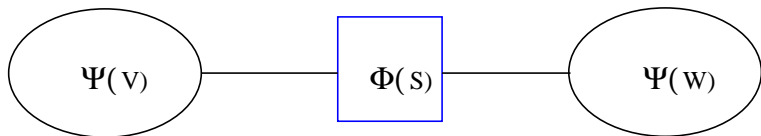
We need $\sum_{V \setminus S} \Psi(V) = \Phi(S) = \sum_{W \setminus S} \Psi(W)$.

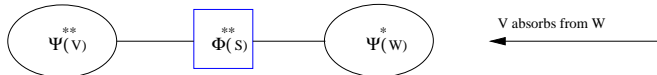## Absorption

Absorption passes a "message" from one node to another:

$\Psi^*(W) = \Psi(W)\frac{\Phi^*(S)}{\Phi(S)}$, where $\Phi^*(S) = \sum_{V \setminus S} \Psi(V)$

Similarly, after passing a message one way, we pass it the other:

$\Psi^{**}(V) = \Psi^*(V)\frac{\Phi^{**}(S)}{\Phi^*(S)}$, where $\Psi^*(V) = \Psi(V)$ and
$\Phi^{**}(S) = \sum_{W \setminus S} \Psi^*(W)$

This ensures *consistency*:
$\sum_{V \setminus S} \Psi^{**}(V) = \Phi^{**}(S) = \sum_{W \setminus S} \Psi^*(W)$.

Also

$$\frac{\Psi(V)\Psi(W)}{\Phi(S)} = \frac{\Psi^*(V)\Psi^*(W)}{\Phi^*(S)} = \frac{\Psi^{**}(V)\Psi^{**}(W)}{\Phi^{**}(S)}$$

where $\Psi^{**}(W) = \Psi^*(W)$, thus maintaining the clique tree representation of the graph.

Show that $\Psi^{**}(V)$ and $\Psi^{**}(W)$ have the same marginals on S

Introducing Evidence

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_C \Psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)$$

Split nodes into H (hidden) and E (evidence)

$$p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) = \prod_C \Psi_C(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{C \cap E}) \triangleq \prod_C \tilde{\Psi}_{\tilde{C}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}})$$

This is a product of "slices" of potential functions.
Thus to introduce evidence, we modify the potentials in the original graph, setting any nodes to their evidential values.
One can also use the "evidence potential" approach by setting

$$\tilde{\Psi}_C(\mathbf{x}_C) = \Psi_C(\mathbf{x}_C) \delta(\mathbf{x}_{C \cap E}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{C \cap E})$$

but this fills the clique potentials with lots of zeros thus and wastes storage and computation

Propagation on a Junction Tree

- Node *V* can send exactly one message to a neighbour *W*, and it may only be sent when *V* has received a message from all of its other neighbours
- Choose one clique (arbitrarily) as a root of the tree; collect messages to this node and then distribute messages away from it
- After collection and distribution phases, we have in each clique that

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_C) = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$$
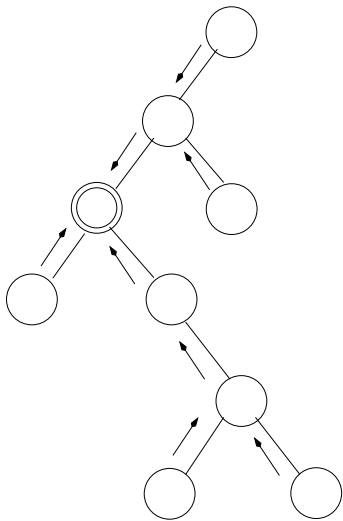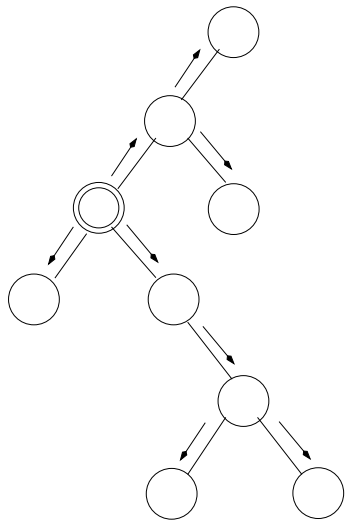
CollectEvidence   DistributeEvidence

Summary of JTA

- Convert belief network into JT
- Initialize potentials and separators
- Incorporate evidence (JT is inconsistent)
- CollectEvidence and DistributeEvidence (to give a consistent JT)
- Obtain clique marginals by marginalization/normalization

Theorem
Let the probability $p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$ be represented by the clique potentials of a junction tree. When the junction tree algorithm terminates, the clique potentials and separator potentials are proportional to the local marginal probabilities. In particular:

$$\Psi_C = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E), \qquad \Phi_S = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$$

Proof
Observe that the separators are subsets of the cliques which are consistent with the cliques. Thus we only need to prove the result for the cliques.

Throughout the propagation process we have maintained the representation

$$p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) = \frac{\prod_C \Psi_C(\mathbf{x_C})}{\prod_S \Phi_S(\mathbf{x}_S)}$$

After the collect- and distribute-evidence stages the junction tree is consistent (i.e. the marginalization of the potentials of the cliques at either end of a separator give the same separator potential).

We now show that marginalization of the joint $p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$ gives the desired result.
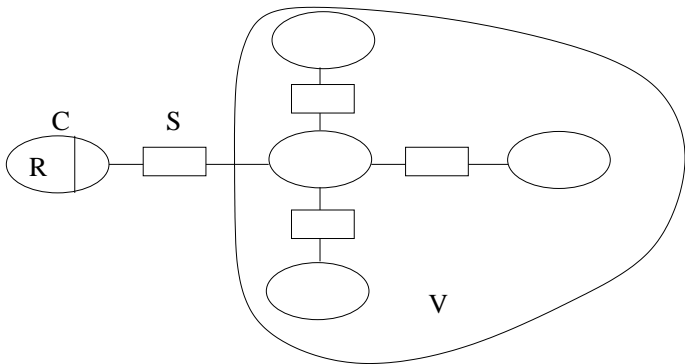
Choose a clique C that is a leaf of the JT with separator S. Let
$\tilde{C} = C \backslash E$ and $\tilde{S} = S \backslash E$. Let $\tilde{R} = \tilde{C} \backslash \tilde{S}$, and the remaining
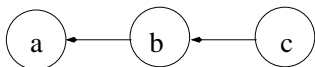non-evidence nodes be denoted $\tilde{T}$.
We now remove clique C by summing out $\tilde{R}$ from
$p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) = p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{R}}, \mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}}, \mathbf{x}_{\tilde{T}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{T}}, \mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) &= \sum_{\tilde{R}} p(\mathbf{x}_H, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) \\
&= \sum_{\tilde{R}} \frac{\prod_{\tilde{C}} \Psi_{\tilde{C}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}})}{\prod_{\tilde{S}} \Phi_{\tilde{S}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}})} \\
&= \sum_{\tilde{R}} \frac{\Psi_{\tilde{C}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}})}{\Phi_{\tilde{S}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}})} \frac{\prod_{\tilde{C}' \neq C} \Psi_{\tilde{C}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}'})}{\prod_{\tilde{S}' \neq S} \Phi_{\tilde{S}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}'})} \\
&= \frac{\sum_{\tilde{R}} \Psi_{\tilde{C}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}})}{\Phi_{\tilde{S}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}})} \frac{\prod_{\tilde{C}' \neq C} \Psi_{\tilde{C}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}'})}{\prod_{\tilde{S}' \neq S} \Phi_{\tilde{S}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}'})} \\
&= \frac{\prod_{\tilde{C}' \neq C} \Psi_{\tilde{C}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}'})}{\prod_{\tilde{S}' \neq S} \Phi_{\tilde{S}'}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{S}'})}
\end{aligned}
$$

Applying this process repeatedly we obtain $p(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E) = \Psi_{\tilde{C}}(\mathbf{x}_{\tilde{C}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_E)$

Compute

- $p(b)$
- $p(b|a = 0, c = 1)$
- $p(c|b = 1)$