CS 2710 Foundations of AI
Lecture 17

Inference in Bayesian belief networks

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Modeling uncertainty with probabilities

- **Knowledge based system era (70s – early 80's)**
  - **Extensional non-probabilistic models**
  - Solve the space, time and acquisition bottlenecks in probability-based models
  - froze the development and advancement of KB systems and contributed to the slow-down of AI in 80s in general
- Breakthrough (late 80s, beginning of 90s)
  - **Bayesian belief networks**
    - Give solutions to the space, acquisition bottlenecks
    - Partial solutions for time complexities
- Bayesian belief network

Bayesian belief networks (BBNs)

Bayesian belief networks.

- Represent the full joint distribution over the variables more compactly with a **smaller number of parameters**.
- Take advantage of **conditional and marginal independences** among random variables

- **A and B are independent**

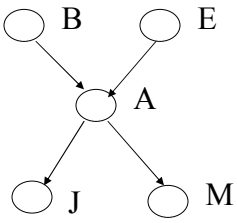
$$P(A,B) = P(A)P(B)$$

- **A and B are conditionally independent given C**

$$P(A,B \mid C) = P(A \mid C)P(B \mid C)$$
$$P(A \mid C,B) = P(A \mid C)$$

Bayesian belief networks (general)

Two components: $B = (S, \Theta_S)$



- **Directed acyclic graph**
  - Nodes correspond to random variables
  - (Missing) links encode independences

- **Parameters**
  - Local conditional probability distributions for every variable-parent configuration

$$\mathbf{P}(X_i \mid pa(X_i))$$

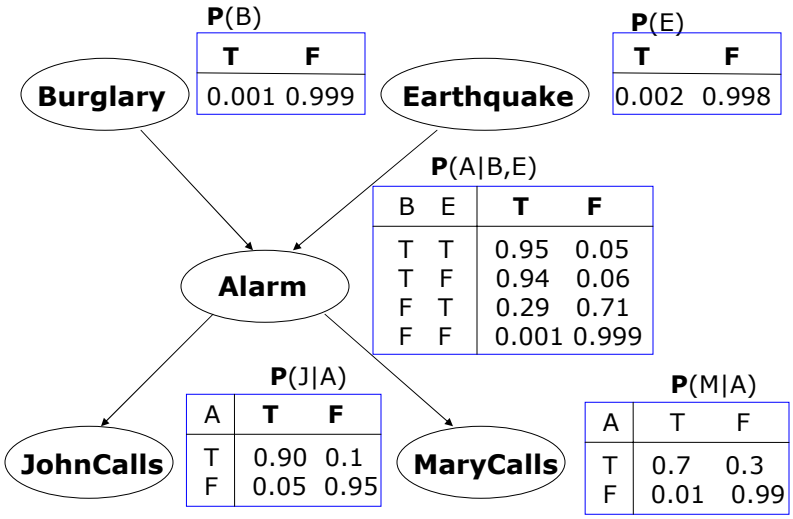
Where:

$pa(X_i)$ - stand for parents of X_i

P(A|B,E)

B	E	**T**	**F**
T	T	0.95	0.05
T	F	0.94	0.06
F	T	0.29	0.71
F	F	0.001	0.999

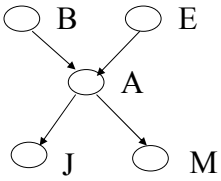
Bayesian belief network.



Full joint distribution in BBNs

Full joint distribution is defined in terms of local conditional distributions (obtained via the chain rule):

$$\mathbf{P}(X_1, X_2, .., X_n) = \prod_{i=1,..n} \mathbf{P}(X_i \mid pa(X_i))$$



Example:

Assume the following assignment of values to random variables

$B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F$

Then its probability is:

$$P(B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F) =$$
$$P(B=T)P(E=T)P(A=T \mid B=T, E=T)P(J=T \mid A=T)P(M=F \mid A=T)$$

Bayesian belief networks (BBNs)

Bayesian belief networks

- Represent the full joint distribution over the variables more compactly using the product of local conditionals.
- **But how did we get to local parameterizations?**

Answer:

- **Graphical structure** encodes **conditional and marginal independences** among random variables
- **A and B are independent** $P(A,B) = P(A)P(B)$
- **A and B are conditionally independent given C**

$$P(A \mid C, B) = P(A \mid C)$$

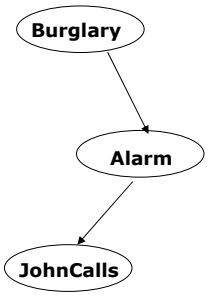
$$P(A, B \mid C) = P(A \mid C)P(B \mid C)$$

- **The graph structure implies the decomposition !!!**

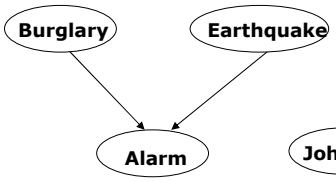
Independences in BBNs

3 basic independence structures:

1.



2.



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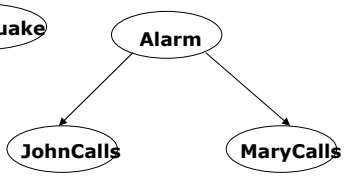
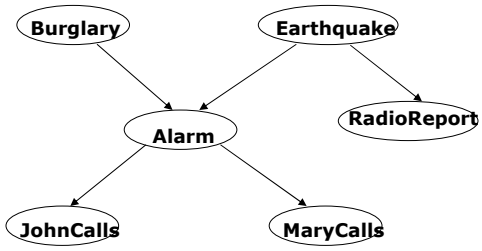


Independences in BBN

- BBN distribution models many conditional independence relations among distant variables and sets of variables
- These are defined in terms of the graphical criterion called d-separation
- **D-separation and independence**
  - Let X,Y and Z be three sets of nodes
  - If X and Y are d-separated by Z, then X and Y are conditionally independent given Z
- **D-separation :**
  - A is d-separated from B given C if every undirected path between them is **blocked with C**
- **Path blocking**
  - 3 cases that expand on three basic independence structures

Independences in BBNs



- Earthquake and Burglary are independent given MaryCalls **F**
- Burglary and MaryCalls are independent (not knowing Alarm) **F**
- Burglary and RadioReport are independent given Earthquake **T**
- Burglary and RadioReport are independent given MaryCalls **F**

Bayesian belief networks (BBNs)

Bayesian belief networks

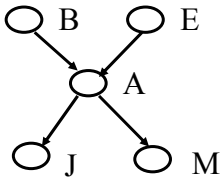
- Represents the full joint distribution over the variables more compactly using the product of local conditionals.
- **So how did we get to local parameterizations?**

$$\mathbf{P}(X_1, X_2, .., X_n) = \prod_{i=1,..n} \mathbf{P}(X_i \mid pa(X_i))$$

- **The decomposition is implied by the set of independences encoded in the belief network.**

Full joint distribution in BBNs

Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



$$P(B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F) =$$

$$= P(J=T \mid B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F) P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F)$$

$$= P(J=T \mid A=T) P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F)$$

$$P(M=F \mid B=T, E=T, A=T) P(B=T, E=T, A=T)$$

$$P(M=F \mid A=T) P(B=T, E=T, A=T)$$

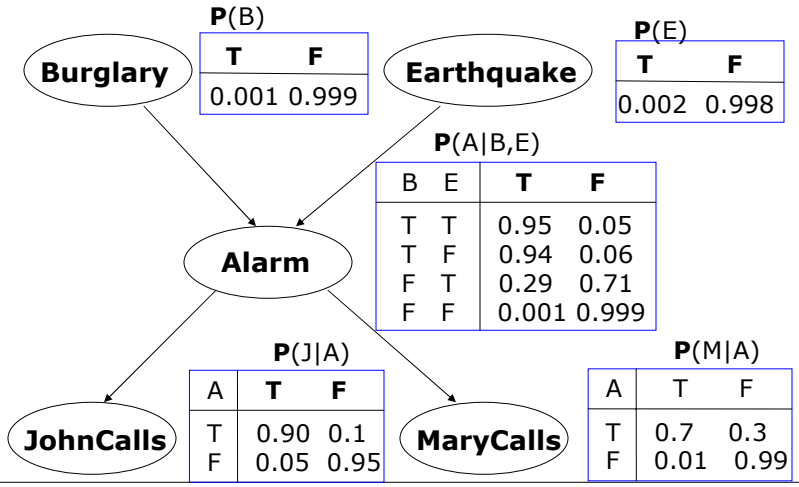
$$P(A=T \mid B=T, E=T) P(B=T, E=T)$$

$$P(B=T) P(E=T)$$

$$= P(J=T \mid A=T) P(M=F \mid A=T) P(A=T \mid B=T, E=T) P(B=T) P(E=T)$$

Bayesian belief network.

- In the BBN the **full joint distribution** is expressed using a set of local conditional distributions



P(B)

T	F
0.001	0.999

P(E)

T	F
0.002	0.998

P(A|B,E)

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P(J|A)

A	T	F
T	0.90	0.1
F	0.05	0.95

P(M|A)

A	T	F
T	0.7	0.3
F	0.01	0.99

Parameter complexity problem

- In the BBN the **full joint distribution** is defined as:

$$\mathbf{P}(X_1, X_2, .., X_n) = \prod_{i=1,..n} \mathbf{P}(X_i \mid pa(X_i))$$

- **What did we save?**

Alarm example: 5 binary (True, False) variables

# of parameters of the full joint:

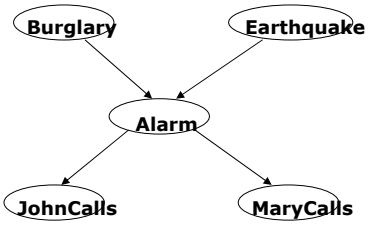
$$2^5 = 32$$

One parameter is for free:

$$2^5 - 1 = 31$$

# of parameters of the BBN:

$$2^3 + 2(2^2) + 2(2) = 20$$



One parameter in every conditional is for free:

$$2^2 + 2(2) + 2(1) = 10$$

Model acquisition problem

The structure of the BBN

- typically reflects causal relations
  (BBNs are also sometime referred to as **causal networks)**
- Causal structure is intuitive in many applications domain and it is relatively easy to define to the domain expert

Probability parameters of BBN

- are conditional distributions relating random variables and their parents
- Complexity is much smaller than the full joint
- It is much easier to obtain such probabilities from the expert or learn them automatically from data

BBNs built in practice

- **In various areas:**
  - Intelligent user interfaces (Microsoft)
  - Troubleshooting, diagnosis of a technical device
  - Medical diagnosis:
    - Pathfinder (Intellipath)
    - CPSC
    - Munin
    - QMR-DT
  - Collaborative filtering
  - Military applications
  - Business and finance
    - Insurance, credit applications

Inference

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Inference in Bayesian networks

- BBN models compactly the full joint distribution by taking advantage of existing independences between variables
- Simplifies the acquisition of a probabilistic model
- But we are interested in solving various **inference tasks**:
  - **Diagnostic task. (from effect to cause)**

$$\mathbf{P}(Burglary \mid JohnCalls = T)$$

  - **Prediction task. (from cause to effect)**

$$\mathbf{P}(JohnCalls \mid Burglary = T)$$

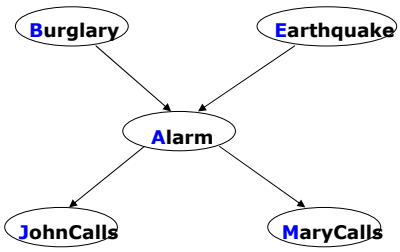
  - **Other probabilistic queries** (queries on joint distributions).

$$\mathbf{P}(Alarm)$$

- **Main issue:** Can we take advantage of independences to construct special algorithms and speeding up the inference?

Inference in Bayesian network

- **Bad news:**
  - Exact inference problem in BBNs is NP-hard (Cooper)
  - Approximate inference is NP-hard (Dagum, Luby)
- **But** very often we can achieve significant improvements
- Assume our Alarm network



- Assume we want to compute: $P(J = T)$

Inference in Bayesian networks

Computing: $P(J = T)$

Approach 1. Blind approach.

- Sum out all un-instantiated variables from the full joint,
- express the joint distribution as a product of conditionals

$$P(J = T) =$$

$$= \sum_{b \in T,F} \sum_{e \in T,F} \sum_{a \in T,F} \sum_{m \in T,F} P(B = b, E = e, A = a, J = T, M = m)$$

$$= \sum_{b \in T,F} \sum_{e \in T,F} \sum_{a \in T,F} \sum_{m \in T,F} P(J = T \mid A = a) P(M = m \mid A = a) P(A = a \mid B = b, E = e) P(B = b) P(E = e)$$

Computational cost:

Number of additions: ?

Number of products: ?

Inference in Bayesian networks

Computing: $P(J = T)$

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Computational cost:

Number of additions: 15

Number of products: ?

Inference in Bayesian networks

Computing: $P(J = T)$

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Computational cost:

Number of additions: 15

Number of products: 16*4=64

Inference in Bayesian networks

Approach 2. Interleave sums and products

- Combines sums and product in a smart way (multiplications by constants can be taken out of the sum)

$$P(J=T)=$$

$$=\sum_{b\in T,F}\sum_{e\in T,F}\sum_{a\in T,F}\sum_{m\in T,F}P(J=T\mid A=a)P(M=m\mid A=a)P(A=a\mid B=b,E=e)P(B=b)P(E=e)$$

$$=\sum_{b\in T,F}\sum_{a\in T.F}\sum_{m\in T,F}P(J=T\mid A=a)P(M=m\mid A=a)P(B=b)[\sum_{e\in T,F}P(A=a\mid B=b,E=e)P(E=e)]$$

$$=\sum_{a\in T,F}P(J=T\mid A=a)[\sum_{m\in T,F}P(M=m\mid A=a)][\sum_{b\in T,F}P(B=b)[\sum_{e\in T,F}P(A=a\mid B=b,E=e)P(E=e)]]$$

Computational cost:

Number of additions: 1+2*[1+1+2*1]=**?**

Number of products: 2*[2+2*(1+2*1)]=?

Inference in Bayesian networks

Approach 2. Interleave sums and products

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Computational cost:

Number of additions: 1+2*[1+1+2*1]=**9**

Number of products: 2*[2+2*(1+2*1)]=?

Inference in Bayesian networks

Approach 2. Interleave sums and products

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Computational cost:

Number of additions: 1+2*[1+1+2*1]=**9**

Number of products: 2*[2+2*(1+2*1)]=16

Inference in Bayesian networks

- The smart interleaving of sums and products can help us to speed up the computation of joint probability queries
- What if we want to compute: $P(B=T,J=T)$

$$P(B=T,J=T)=$$

$$=\sum_{a\in T,F}P(J=T\mid A=a)[\sum_{m\in T,F}P(M=m\mid A=a)]\left[P(B=T)\left[\sum_{e\in T,F}P(A=a\mid B=T,E=e)P(E=e)\right]\right]$$

$$P(J=T)=$$

$$=\sum_{a\in T,F}P(J=T\mid A=a)[\sum_{m\in T,F}P(M=m\mid A=a)]\left[\sum_{b\in T,F}P(B=b)\left[\sum_{e\in T,F}P(A=a\mid B=b,E=e)P(E=e)\right]\right]$$

- A lot of shared computation
  - Smart cashing of results can save the time for more queries

Inference in Bayesian networks

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$$P(B = T, J = T) =$$
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$$P(J = T) =$$
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- A lot of shared computation
  - Smart cashing of results can save the time if more queries

Inference in Bayesian networks

- When cashing of results becomes handy?
- What if we want to compute a diagnostic query:

$$P(B = T \mid J = T) = \frac{P(B = T, J = T)}{P(J = T)}$$

- Exactly probabilities we have just compared !!
- There are other queries when cashing and ordering of sums and products can be shared and saves computation

$$\mathbf{P}(B \mid J = T) = \frac{\mathbf{P}(B, J = T)}{P(J = T)} = \alpha \mathbf{P}(B, J = T)$$

- General technique: **Variable elimination**

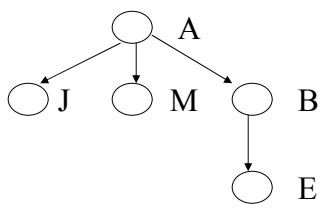
Inference in Bayesian networks

- General idea of variable elimination

$$P(True) = 1 =$$

$$= \sum_{a \in T,F} [\underbrace{\sum_{j \in T,F} P(J=j \mid A=a)}_{f_J(a)}][\underbrace{\sum_{m \in T,F} P(M=m \mid A=a)}_{f_M(a)}][\underbrace{\sum_{b \in T,F} P(B=b)[\underbrace{\sum_{e \in T,F} P(A=a \mid B=b, E=e) P(E=e)}_{f_E(a,b)}]}_{f_B(a)}]$$

Variable order:



Results cashed in the tree structure

Inference in Bayesian network

- **Exact inference algorithms:**
  - **Variable elimination** (Book)
  - Symbolic inference (D'Ambrosio)
  - Recursive decomposition (Cooper)
  - Message passing algorithm (Pearl)
  - **Clustering and joint tree approach (Lauritzen, Spiegelhalter)** (Book)
  - Arc reversal (Olmsted, Schachter)

- **Approximate inference algorithms:**
  - **Monte Carlo methods:** (Book)
    - Forward sampling, Likelihood sampling
  - Variational methods

Monte Carlo approaches

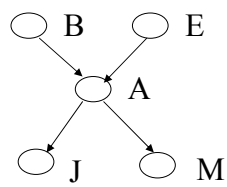
- **MC approximation**:
  - The probability is approximated using sample frequencies
  - **Example:**

$$\tilde{P}(B=T, J=T) = \frac{N_{B=T,J=T}}{N}$$

$N_{B=T,J=T}$ ← *# samples with* $B=T, J=T$

N ← *total # samples*

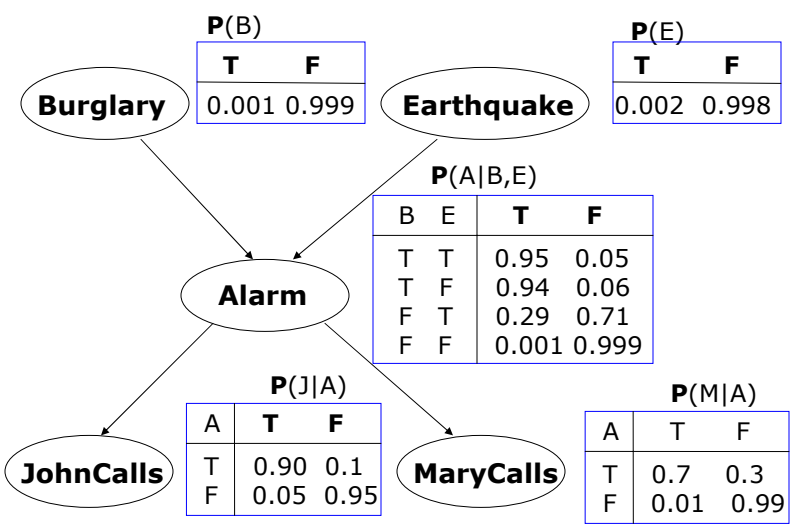
- **BBN sampling:**



Generate sample in a top down manner, following the links

- **One sample gives one assignment of values to all variables**

BBN sampling example



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P(J|A)

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P(M|A)

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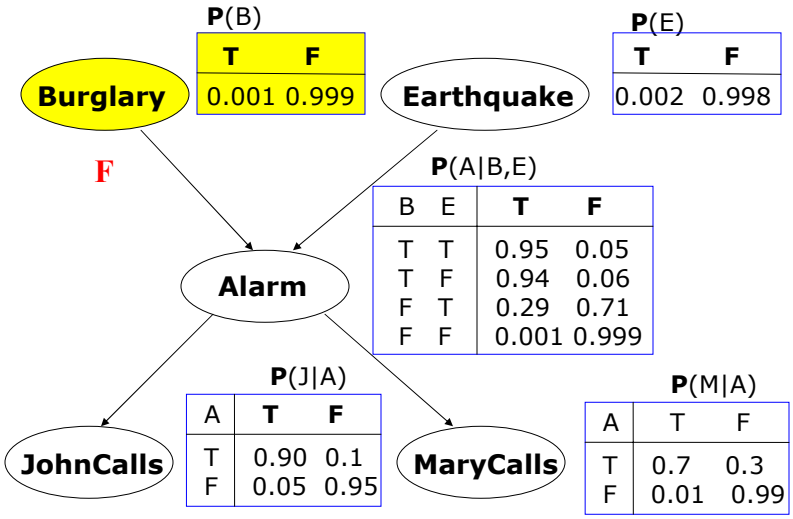
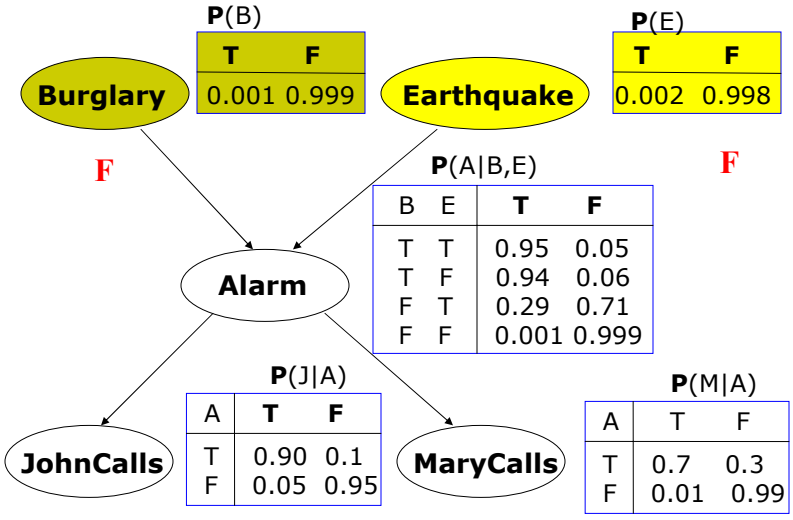
BBN sampling example



BBN sampling example



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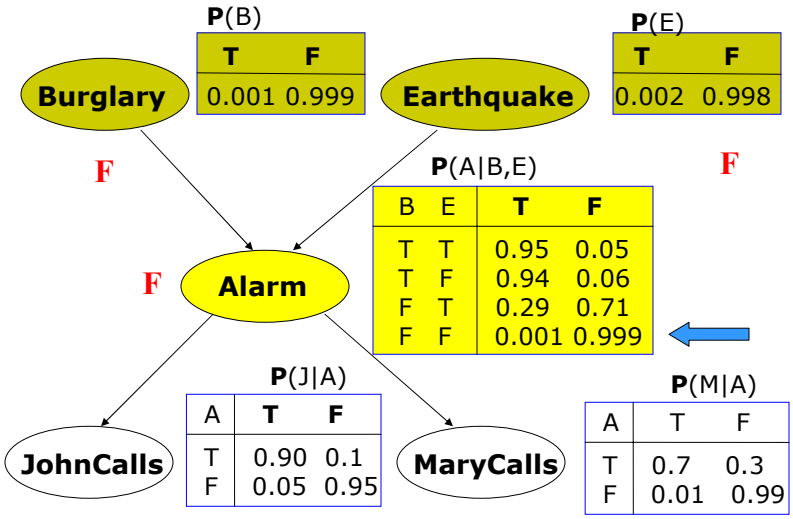

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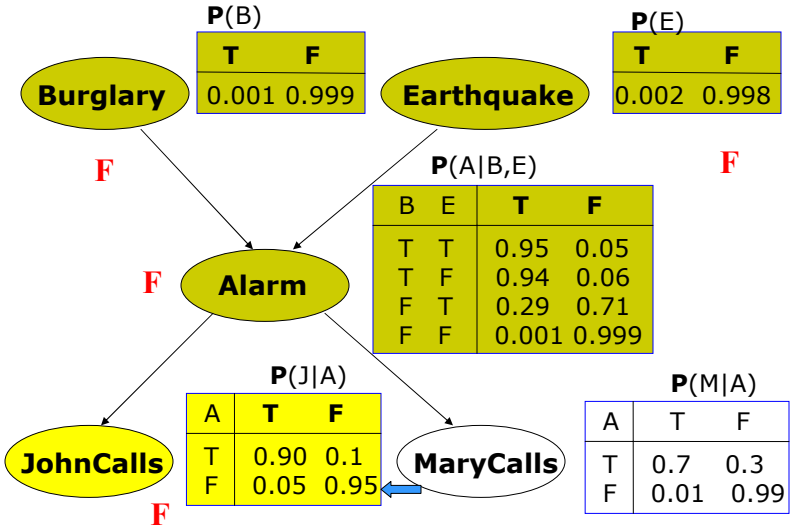
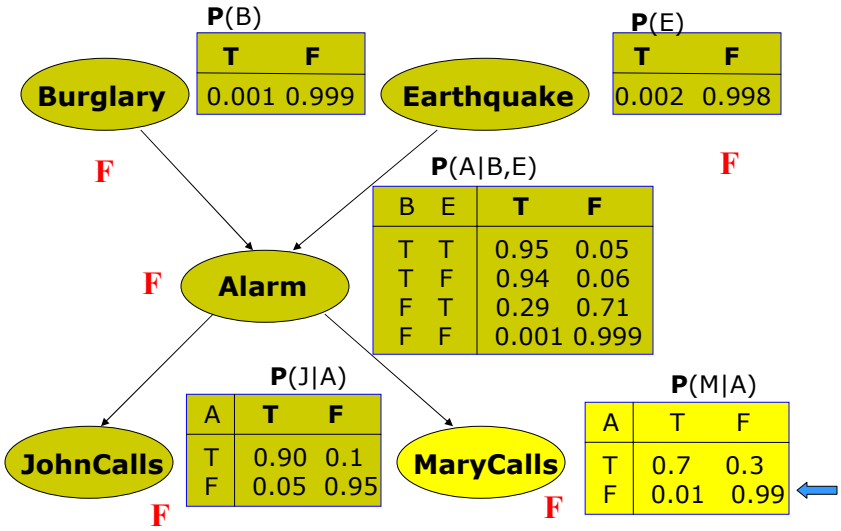


BBN sampling example



Monte Carlo approaches

- **MC approximation of conditional probabilities**:
  - The probability is approximated using sample frequencies
  - **Example:**

$$\tilde{P}(B=T \mid J=T) = \frac{N_{B=T,J=T}}{N_{J=T}}$$

$\# \, samples \;\; with \;\; B=T, J=T$

$\# \, samples \;\; with \;\; J=T$

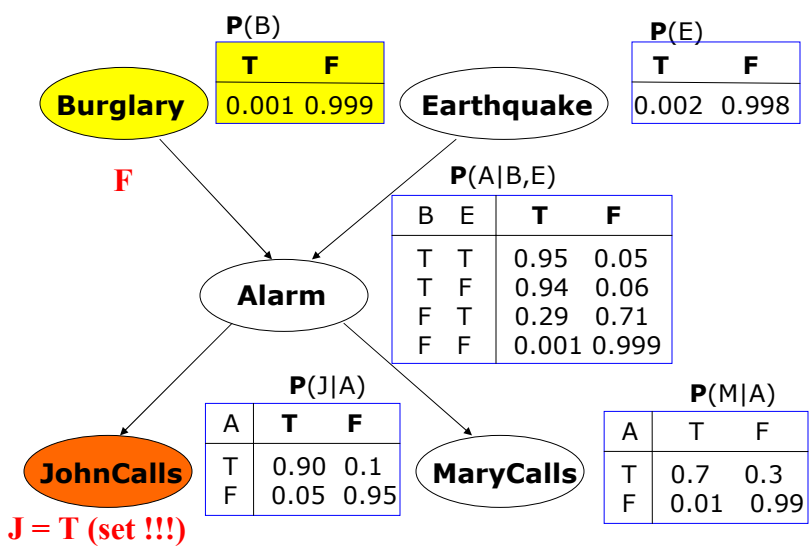
- **Rejection sampling:**
  - Generate sample for the full joint by sampling BBN
  - Use only samples that agree with the condition, the remaining samples are rejected
- **Problem:** many samples can be rejected

Likelihood weighting

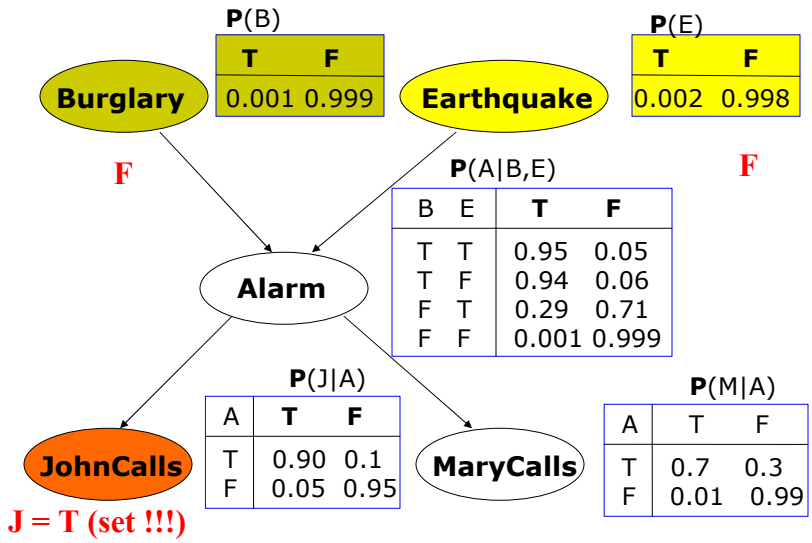
- **Avoids inefficiencies of rejection sampling**
  - **Idea: generate only samples consistent with an evidence (or conditioning event)**
  - **If the value is set no sampling (random choice occurs)**
- **Problem:** using simple counts is not enough since these may occur with different probabilities
- Likelihood weighting:
  - **With every sample keep a weight with which it should count towards the estimate**

$$\tilde{P}(B=T \mid J=T) = \frac{\sum_{\text{samples with } B=T \text{ and } J=T} w_{B=T}}{\sum_{\text{samples with any value of } B \text{ and } J=T} w_{B=x}}$$

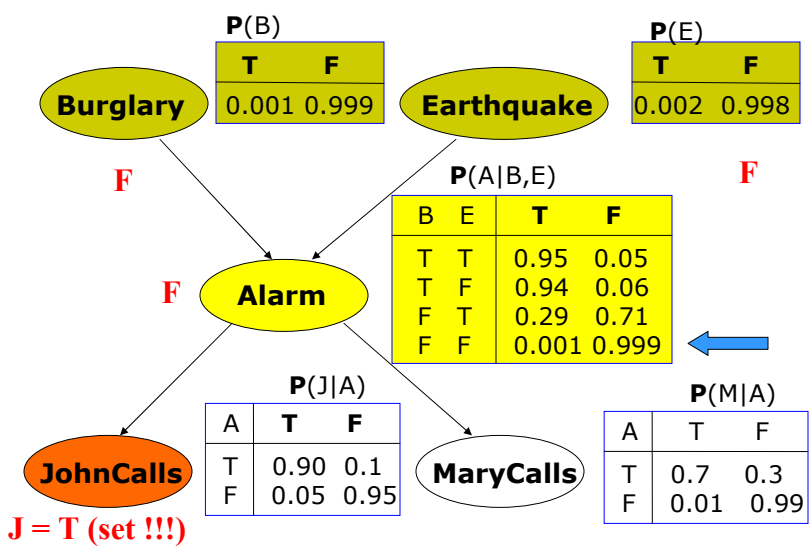
BBN likelihood weighting example



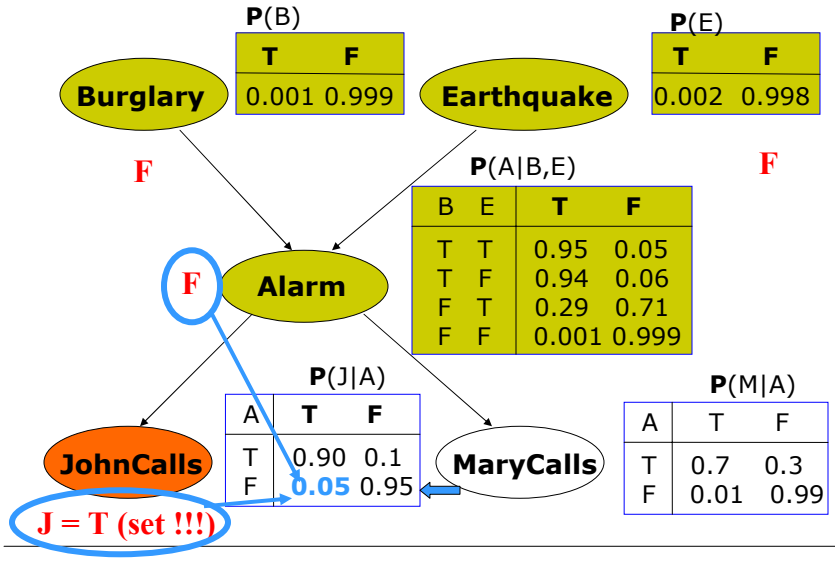
BBN likelihood weighting example



BBN likelihood weighting example



BBN likelihood weighting example



BBN likelihood weighting example