

# CS 2740 Knowledge Representation

## Lecture 17

### Bayesian belief networks

**Milos Hauskrecht**  
[milos@cs.pitt.edu](mailto:milos@cs.pitt.edu)  
5329 Sennott Square

### Probabilistic inference

Various inference tasks:

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

$$\mathbf{P}(Pneumonia \mid Fever = T)$$

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

$$\mathbf{P}(Fever \mid Pneumonia = T)$$

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

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

$$\mathbf{P}(Fever, ChestPain)$$

## Inference

Any query can be computed from the full joint distribution !!!

- **Joint over a subset of variables** is obtained through marginalization

$$P(A = a, C = c) = \sum_i \sum_j P(A = a, B = b_i, C = c, D = d_j)$$

- **Conditional probability over set of variables**, given other variables' values is obtained through marginalization and definition of conditionals

$$\begin{aligned} P(D = d \mid A = a, C = c) &= \frac{P(A = a, C = c, D = d)}{P(A = a, C = c)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_i P(A = a, B = b_i, C = c, D = d)}{\sum_i \sum_j P(A = a, B = b_i, C = c, D = d_j)} \end{aligned}$$

## Inference

Any query can be computed from the full joint distribution !!!

- Any joint probability can be expressed as a product of conditionals via the **chain rule**.

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) &= P(X_n \mid X_1, \dots, X_{n-1}) P(X_1, \dots, X_{n-1}) \\ &= P(X_n \mid X_1, \dots, X_{n-1}) P(X_{n-1} \mid X_1, \dots, X_{n-2}) P(X_1, \dots, X_{n-2}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i \mid X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}) \end{aligned}$$

- Sometimes it is easier to define the distribution in terms of conditional probabilities:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{– E.g.} \quad & \mathbf{P}(\textit{Fever} \mid \textit{Pneumonia} = T) \\ & \mathbf{P}(\textit{Fever} \mid \textit{Pneumonia} = F) \end{aligned}$$

## Modeling uncertainty with probabilities

- Defining the **full joint distribution** makes it possible to represent and reason with uncertainty in a uniform way
- We are able to handle an arbitrary inference problem

### Problems:

- **Space complexity.** To store a full joint distribution we need to remember  $O(d^n)$  numbers.  
 $n$  – number of random variables,  $d$  – number of values
- **Inference (time) complexity.** To compute some queries requires  $O(d^n)$  steps.
- **Acquisition problem.** Who is going to define all of the probability entries?

## Medical diagnosis example

- **Space complexity.**
  - Pneumonia (2 values: T,F), Fever (2: T,F), Cough (2: T,F), WBCcount (3: high, normal, low), paleness (2: T,F)
  - Number of assignments:  $2*2*2*3*2=48$
  - We need to define at least 47 probabilities.

- **Time complexity.**
  - Assume we need to compute the marginal of  $P(\text{Pneumonia}=T)$  from the full joint

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Pneumonia} = T) &= \\ &= \sum_{i \in T, F} \sum_{j \in T, F} \sum_{k=h, n, l} \sum_{u \in T, F} P(\text{Fever} = i, \text{Cough} = j, \text{WBCcount} = k, \text{Pale} = u) \end{aligned}$$

- Sum over:  $2*2*3*2=24$  combinations

## 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**

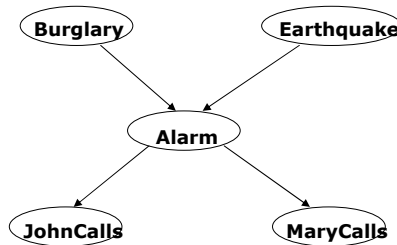
$$P(A, B | C) = P(A | C)P(B | C)$$

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

## Alarm system example.

- Assume your house has an **alarm system** against **burglary**. You live in the seismically active area and the alarm system can get occasionally set off by an **earthquake**. You have two neighbors, **Mary** and **John**, who do not know each other. If they hear the alarm they call you, but this is not guaranteed.
- We want to represent the probability distribution of events:
  - Burglary, Earthquake, Alarm, Mary calls and John calls

### Causal relations

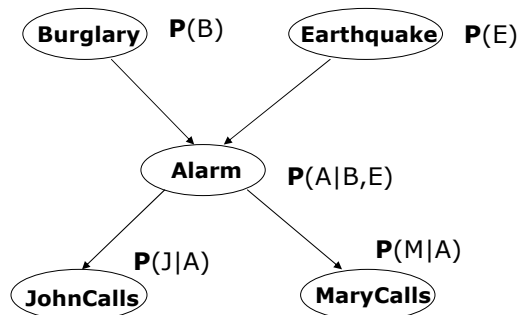


## Bayesian belief network.

### 1. Directed acyclic graph

- Nodes** = random variables  
Burglary, Earthquake, Alarm, Mary calls and John calls
- Links** = direct (causal) dependencies between variables.

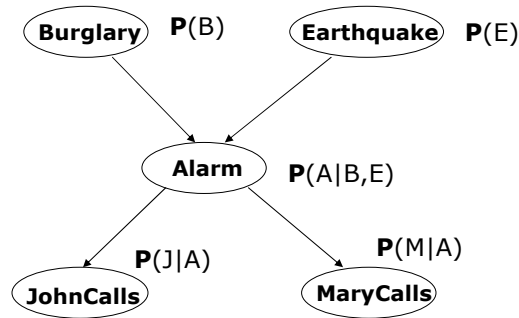
The chance of Alarm is influenced by Earthquake, The chance of John calling is affected by the Alarm



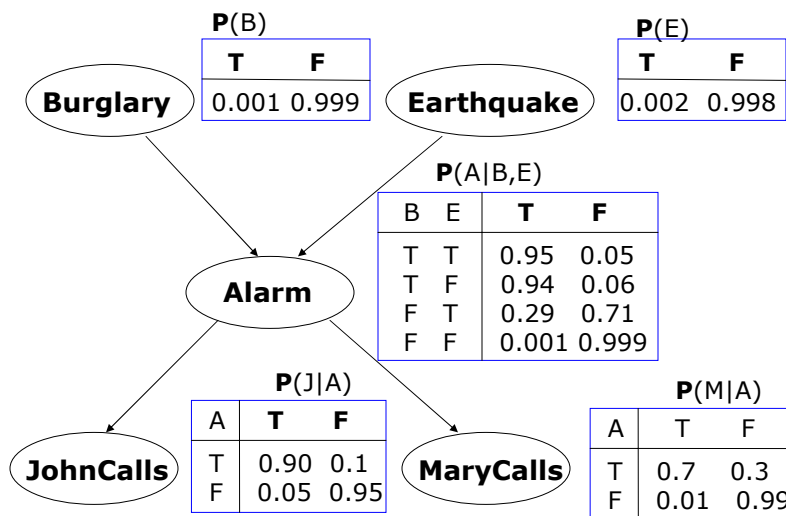
## Bayesian belief network.

### 2. Local conditional distributions

- relate variables and their parents



## Bayesian belief network.

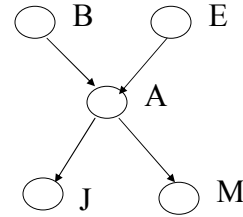


## Bayesian belief networks (general)

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  $X_i$

$\mathbf{P}(A|B,E)$

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

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

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

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

**Example:**

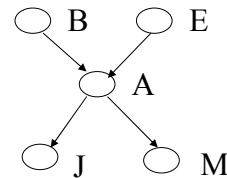
Assume the following assignment of values to random variables

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

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**

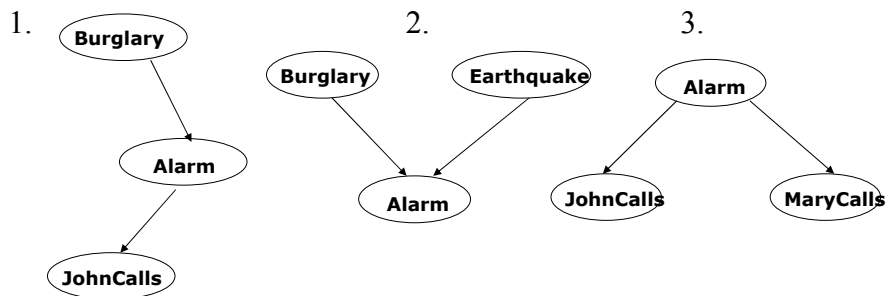
$$P(A | C, B) = P(A | C)$$

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

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

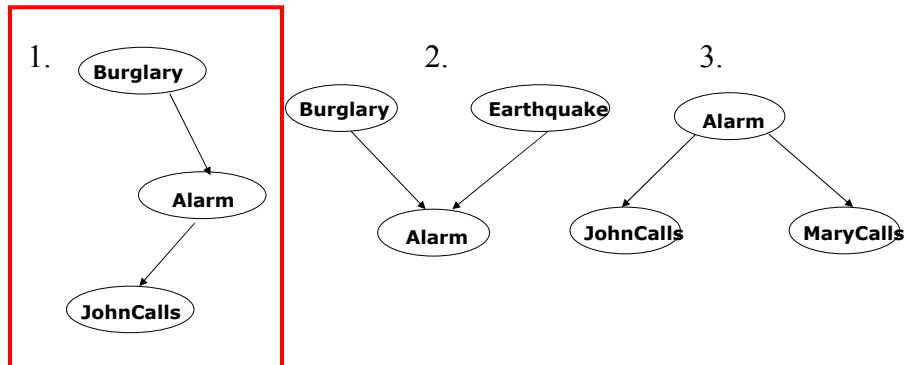
## Independences in BBNs

### 3 basic independence structures:





## Independences in BBNs

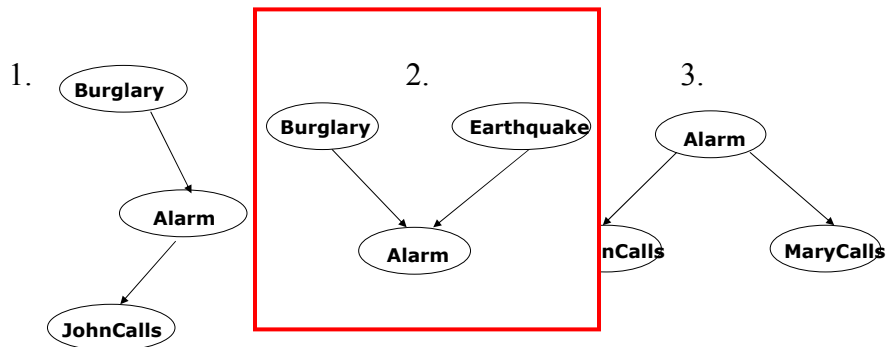


1. JohnCalls is **independent** of Burglary given Alarm

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

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

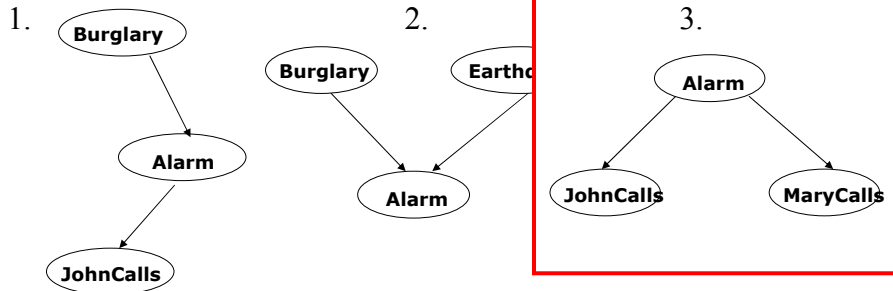
## Independences in BBNs



2. Burglary is **independent** of Earthquake (not knowing Alarm)  
Burglary and Earthquake **become dependent** given Alarm !!

$$P(B, E) = P(B)P(E)$$

## Independences in BBNs



3. MaryCalls **is independent** of JohnCalls given Alarm

$$P(J \mid A, M) = P(J \mid A)$$

$$P(J, M \mid A) = P(J \mid A)P(M \mid A)$$

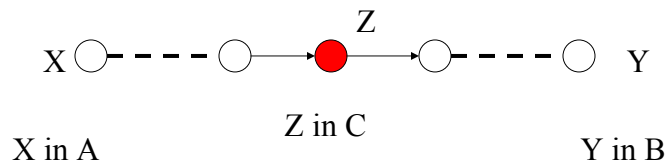
## Independences in BBN

- 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

## Undirected path blocking

A is d-separated from B given C if every undirected path between them is **blocked**

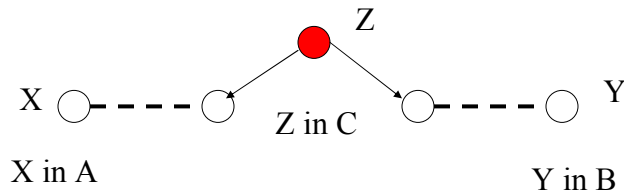
- 1. Path blocking with a linear substructure



## Undirected path blocking

A is d-separated from B given C if every undirected path between them is **blocked**

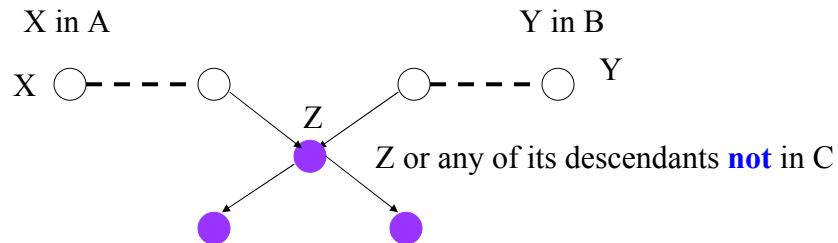
- 2. Path blocking with the wedge substructure



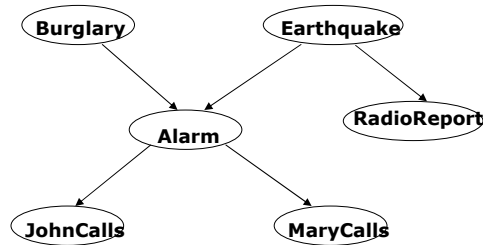
## Undirected path blocking

A is d-separated from B given C if every undirected path between them is **blocked**

- 3. Path blocking with the vee substructure



## 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?

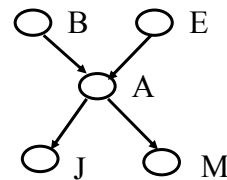
$$P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = \prod_{i=1, \dots, n} P(X_i \mid pa(X_i))$$

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

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

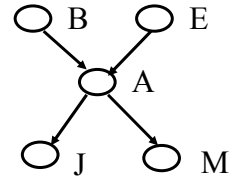
Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:

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



## Full joint distribution in BBNs

Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



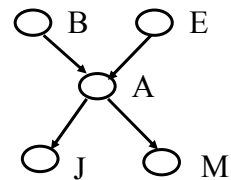
$$P(B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F) =$$

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

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

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



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

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

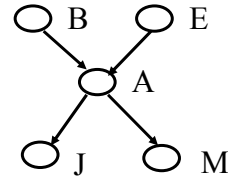
$$= \underline{P(J=T \mid A=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F)}$$

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

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

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

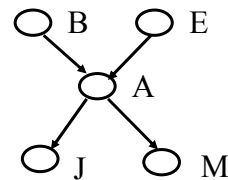
Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F) &= \\
 &= P(J=T \mid B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F) P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F) \\
 &= \underline{P(J=T \mid A=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F)} \\
 &\quad \underline{P(M=F \mid B=T, E=T, A=T)} P(B=T, E=T, A=T) \\
 &\quad \underline{P(M=F \mid A=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T, A=T)} \\
 &\quad \underline{P(A=T \mid B=T, E=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T)}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

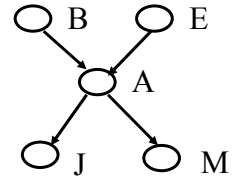
Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(B=T, E=T, A=T, J=T, M=F) &= \\
 &= P(J=T \mid B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F) P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F) \\
 &= \underline{P(J=T \mid A=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T, A=T, M=F)} \\
 &\quad \underline{P(M=F \mid B=T, E=T, A=T)} P(B=T, E=T, A=T) \\
 &\quad \underline{P(M=F \mid A=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T, A=T)} \\
 &\quad \underline{P(A=T \mid B=T, E=T)} \underline{P(B=T, E=T)} \\
 &\quad \quad P(B=T) P(E=T)
 \end{aligned}$$

## Full joint distribution in BBNs

Rewrite the full joint probability using the product rule:



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

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

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

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

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

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

$$\underline{P(B=T)} \underline{P(E=T)}$$

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