# Lecture of 11/16

Two parts: Part 1: Practical issues in constructing Bayes networks Part 2. Inference in Bayes networks

# Part 1. Issues in constructing Bayes Nets

# Constructing Belief Networks: Summary

- [[Decide on what sorts of queries you are interested in answering
  - This in turn dictates what factors to model in the network
- Decide on a vocabulary of the variables and their domains for the problem
  - Introduce "Hidden" variables into the network as needed to make the network "sparse"
- Decide on an order of introduction of variables into the network
  - Introducing variables in causal direction leads to fewer connections (sparse structure) AND easier to assess probabilities
- Try to use canonical distributions to specify the CPTs
  - Noisy-OR
  - Parameterized discrete/continuous distributions
    - Such as Poisson, Normal (Gaussian) etc

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## Case Study: Pathfinder System

- Domain: Lymph node diseases
  - Deals with 60 diseases and 100 disease findings
- Versions:
  - Pathfinder I: A rule-based system with logical reasoning
  - Pathfinder II: Tried a variety of approaches for uncertainity
    - Simple bayes reasoning outperformed
  - Pathfinder III: Simple bayes reasoning, but reassessed probabilities
  - Parthfinder IV: Bayesian network was used to handle a variety of conditional dependencies.
    - Deciding vocabulary: 8 hours
    - Devising the topology of the network: 35 hours
    - Assessing the (14,000) probabilities: 40 hours
      - Physician experts liked assessing causal probabilites
- Evaluation: 53 "referral" cases
  - Pathfinder III: 7.9/10
  - Pathfinder IV: 8.9/10 [Saves one additional life in every 1000 cases!]
  - A more recent comparison shows that Pathfinder now *outperforms* experts who helped design it!!

# Part II. Inference in Bayes Nets

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### **Converting Multi-connected trees into Singly connected trees**



Conversion will take exponential time -Still worth doing if conversion is done off-line and the cost is amortized over many potential queries

## Summary of BN Inference Algorithms

### **TONS OF APPROACHES**

#### **Exact Inference**

- Complexity
  - NP-hard (actually #P-Complete; since we "count" models)
    - Polynomial for "Singly connected" networks (one path between each pair of nodes)
- Algorithms
  - Enumeration
  - Variable elimination
    - Avoids the redundant computations of Enumeration
  - [Many others such as "message passing" algorithms, Constraintpropagation based algorithms etc.]

#### Approximate Inference

- Complexity
  - NP-Hard for both absolute and relative approximation
- Algorithms
  - Based on Stochastic Simulation
    - Sampling from empty networks
    - Rejection sampling
    - Likelyhood weighting
    - [And many more]



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### **Inefficient (redundant) computations in Enumeration**



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