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Learning from partly observable time-dependent graphs

Jan Ramon

TDLSG workshop @ ECML/PKDD 2017

Skopje, September 18th, 2017

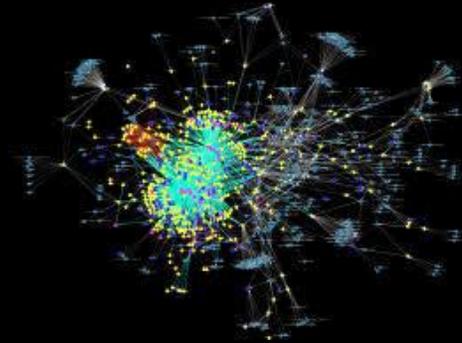


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Types of time-dependent graphs

- Fixed structure, evolving attributes
 - E.g. Gene regulatory network
 - Node: gene
 - Arc: regulation
 - Attribute: expression level
- Fixed attributes, evolving structure
 - E.g. Citation network
 - Node: article
 - Arc: citation
- Evolving attributes, evolving structure
 - E.g. Social network

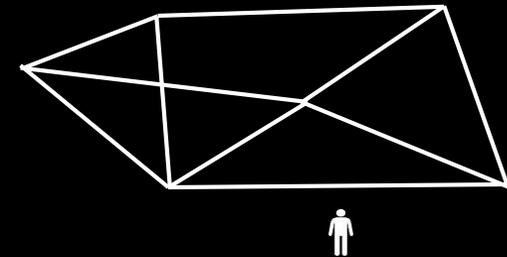
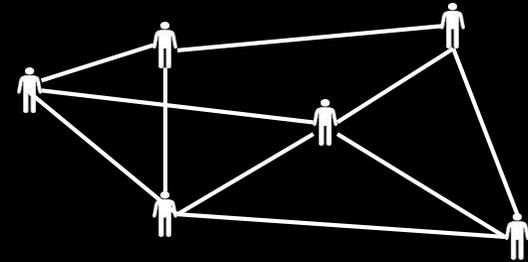


Observability

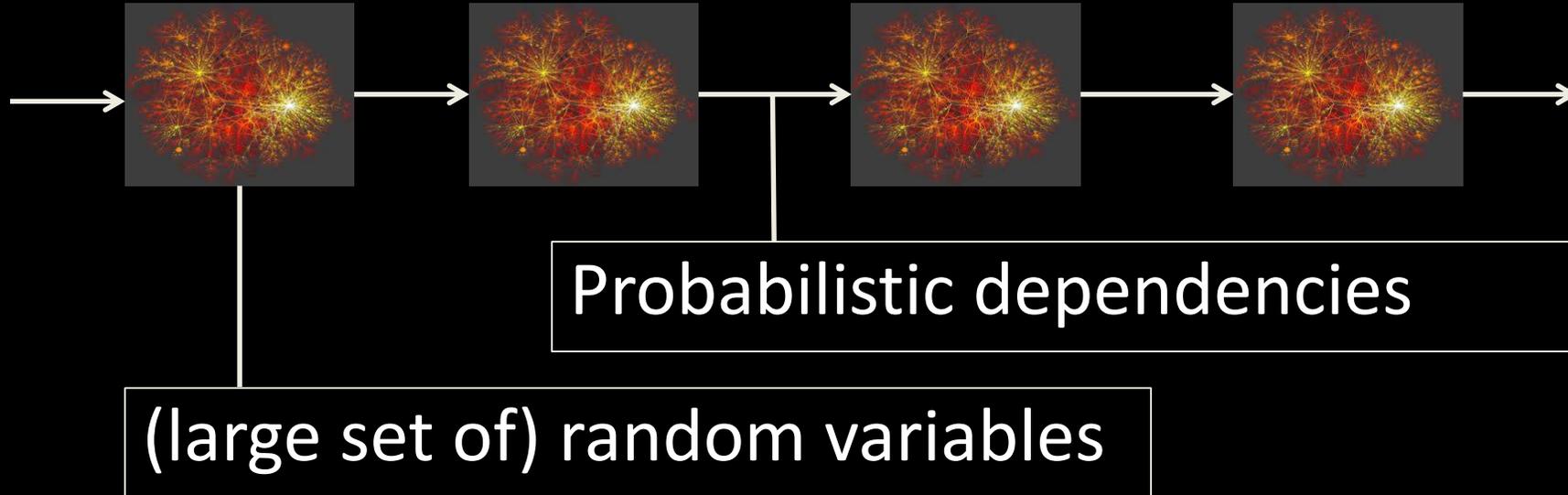
- Collecting actual information
 - is expensive
 - Communication costs
 - Bothering people to record everything
 - Isn't privacy-friendly
 - May be technically infeasible
 - If observations require destructive measurements

Some observation settings

- Nodes as observers
 - Observe/query/inform neighborhood
 - Limited information about distant nodes
 - E.g. Node in communication network
 - E.g. Car in road network
- External observer
 - Overview of graph structure
 - Only limited observation of local details
 - E.g. Service provider in communication network
 - E.g. Government/maintainer monitoring road network



Dynamic probabilistic models



- TD-graph can be modeled with probabilistic relational model (MLN, ProbLog, PRM, RBN, ...)
- But existing inference techniques can't exploit all structure easily

Exploitable structure

- Uniformity of network
 - closeby vertices are/behave similar(ly)
- Continuity
 - Values don't change
- Information flow
 - Also: causality
 - (but not easily conditional independence)

Case studies

- Case study 1: Local observation
- Case study 2: Unobservable history
- Case study 3: Destructive measurement

Case study: Traversal time learning in connected cars

- Networks:

- Traffic

- Static structure: Road network
 - Time-dependent attribute: traffic load



- Communication

- Time-dependent structure: cars communicate if they are close together (sufficiently close to exchange useful traffic experience)

Traffic data

- Car collects data:
 - Car sensors (windows, seats, fuel, ...)
 - Real-time data: acceleration, ...
 - GPS localisation
 - Video data
- Infrastructure collects data:
 - Is parking space used?
 - Speed of traffic
- Databases:
 - Maps, navigation data
 - Ride organization (agenda, ride sharing, ...)

Case study: Traversal time learning in connected cars

- Tasks:
 - Understand behavior of other traffic users
 - Understand & maintain car
 - Determine best route (possibly avoiding congestions)
 - Find free parking slots
 - Learn about unusual traffic situations
 - Update world map
 - ...

Case study: Traversal time learning in connected cars

- Two main problems:
 - Learn regularities in the system
 - Collect real-time information sufficiently quickly
 - Learn to communicate, prioritize, ...
- Here:
 - Learn traversal time of road segments
 - Privacy-friendly

Centralized vs. decentralized

- Privacy
 - Central server can track location of users
- Risk of failure of central service
- Communication & computation cost
 - Amount of applications increases
 - Data volume increases

Constraints

- Each car has a local model of the traffic in its neighborhood
- Cars can only communicate with nearby cars
- Need to respect privacy
- Semi-stream: the car memory is large, but cars hear all broadcasts at most once

Model

- Road segments $e \in E$
 - have average traversal time $\bar{d}_{e,\tau}$ in time-of-days τ .
- Users (cars) $u \in U$
 - prefer to take $w_z^u \bar{d}_{e,\tau}$ time for a unit distance on roads of type z (highway, local road, ...)
- Actual traversal i of $x_i^e \in E$ by $x_i^u \in U$ at time x_i^t takes time x_i^d , assumed close to $w_z^u \bar{d}_{e,\tau} + c_i$, where c_i is the additional time due to congestion

Objective function

$$L(w, c) = \sum_i (x_i^u - w_z^u \bar{d}_{e,\tau} - c_i)^2$$
$$+ \lambda_1 \sum_{i,j} (c_i - c_j)^2 \exp\left(-\left(x_i^t - x_j^t\right)^2 - d\left(x_i^e, x_j^e\right)\right)$$
$$+ \lambda_2 \sum_i c_i^2$$

Accurate predictions

Traffic situation is often similar in nearby places and at nearby times

Try to explain things with few congestions

Algorithm

- Keep knowledge alive:
 - Broadcast learned average traversal times and current congestions, newcomers in area will learn it, those leaving can forget.
- Decentralized: Not just any optimization algorithm
- EM strategy:
 - Estimate c_i from difference between predicted and observed traversal time and from neighborhood
 - Estimate w_z^u by averaging difference between broadcasted average and personal average.
 - Improve $\bar{d}_{e,\tau}$ incrementally from new observations

Learnability

- Static: Converges rather quickly
 - Quadratic program
 - Each step decreases loss
 - (Wider broadcast is helpful)
- Time-dependent:
 - Target may drift
 - Can converge (and predict well) if target moves sufficiently slowly

Privacy

- Broadcast only
 - Congestion c_i
 - Road traversal time average $\bar{d}_{e,\tau}$
- But not
 - Personal deviation in speed w_z^u
- Apply protocol to broadcast training example (x_i^e, x_i^t, x_i^d) without revealing identity x_i^u
 - Challenge: ensure trust in broadcasted messages (e.g., making traceable in case of misinformation)

Case study: Homophilic preferential attachment

- Preferential attachment → powerlaw graphs
 - Very simple
 - Very popular
 - No data
- E.g. Social networks
- Can we parameterize the generative process to understand better?
 - Parameterized preferential attachment PA_θ
 - Newly arrived node selects neighbors v with probability $PA_\theta(v)$



Homophilic preferential attachment

Problem statement

- We only see the end-result, nobody kept a log
- Can we still estimate θ ?
- Simple case: homophily
 - Each vertex v has feature vector $x^v \in F$ with distribution $p_f(\cdot)$
 - Probability of selecting neighbor v for u is proportional to $\sum_i \theta_i x_i^u x_i^v$.

Learning homophilic weights

- Known history (order in which nodes arrive):
 - Regression
 - Given newcomer features, existing node features and edge (1) / no-edge (0)
- Undirected graph:
 - Can't reconstruct attachment examples directly
 - Probabilistic approach
 - Assume order of node arrivals is random

Homophilic preferential attachment

Solution by minimizing loss

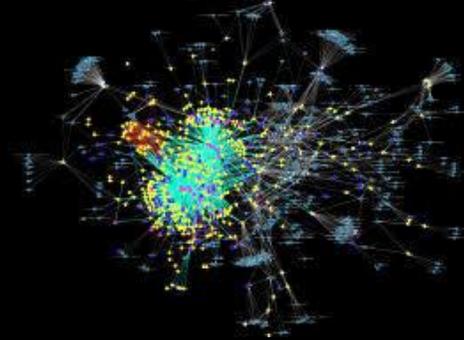
$$L(w) = \sum_{x \in F} \sum_{y \in F} \left(E_{x,y} - \frac{p_f(x)p_f(y) \sum_i w_i x_i y_i}{\sum_{z \in F} p_f(z) \sum_i w_i x_i z_i} \right)$$

Learnability

- Yes, one can learn from a snapshot
 - Need $O(\epsilon^{-2} p_{min}^2)$ examples
- Extensions:
 - Including degree, patterns, ...
 - Becomes quickly more complex

Case study: biological regulatory networks

- Network:
 - Nodes: genes
 - Arcs: regulations
- More activated genes (high expression level) generate more transcription factors that (up or down) regulate other genes.



$$v_{g,t} = f(v_{pa(g,1),t-1}, v_{pa(g,2),t-1}, \dots)$$

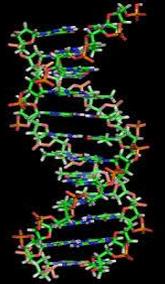
where $pa(g, i)$ is i -th parent of gene g and $v_{g,t}$ is expression level of gene g at time t .

Learning task

- Given:
 - Input (experimental setup), output (measurement) pairs
- Learn:
 - The network
 - structure pa
 - combination functions f
- Active learning operators:
 - Can choose experiment

Biological regulatory networks

- Hardness:
 - In principle turing complete (see also DNA computing)
 - Hence, learning network from (only) input and output is hard.
- Experiments:
 - Destructive
 - May measure output at selected point in time
 - May modify the network (gene knock out)



Biological regulatory networks

- Program induction?
 - Learning programs from input-output pairs is hard
 - But what if we can also get input-output pairs of programs obtained by deleting lines in the original program?
- Approach:
 - Hill climbing through model space
 - In each iteration evaluate minor changes to model
 - Exploit domain knowledge
- Results:
 - Can't expect to learn exactly the same network
 - With sufficient domain knowledge, improvements on prior models can be made

Case studies

Setting	Observation	Exploit	
Traffic	Neighborhood Semi-stream Multi-agent	Continuity Collaboration (info flow) (regularity of network)	Stochastic gradient
Preferential attachment	Global Only present Single world	Regularity of network (and Large Scale)	Analysis & optimization
Regulatory network	Selected variable Selected time Repeatable	Experimental options (info flow)	Hill climbing

Discussion – Generic approaches?

- Several types of settings for time-dependent networks.
 - Wide range in learnability
- generic probabilistic model solvers can't (yet) exploit the various structures. How does this map to lifted inference?
- Meta-learning from 3 case studies:
 - Network regularity (i.e. High network entropy) is important in determining learnability

Discussion - Complexity

- What makes learning from time-dependent large-scale partially-observed graphs hard?
 - No network regularity
 - Long sequences without good observations (as in (PO)MDPs) (making information flow harder to exploit)
 - Discrete / non-continuous / combinatorial evolution

Conclusions

- TD graph is often not fully observable
- LS can help to collect sufficient information
- Often domain-specific solutions needed

Future directions

- More in-depth study of learnability
 - Exploit network regularity?
- More generic approach?
 - Can we automatically understand structure, information flow, ...?
- Tagging: only “TDG” may not be sufficient
 - Can we isolate frequently recurring (sub)problems?

Questions?

