

Special Course in Computational Logic  
 Tutorial 4  
 Solutions

1. An instance of the 3-SAT problem is often given as a set of clauses  $S = \{C_1, \dots, C_n\}$ . Each clause  $C_i$  is a set of three literals  $l_i^1, l_i^2$ , and  $l_i^3$ . A literal is either an atom  $A \in \{A_1, \dots, A_m\}$  or its negation  $\neg A$ . For the sake of simplicity, we assume that  $n \geq 2$  and  $m \geq 2$  (we can add  $\{A_1, \neg A_1, A_2\}$  and  $\{A_2, \neg A_2, A_1\}$  to  $S$  without affecting the satisfiability of  $S$ ).

To show that exact inference in Bayesian networks is NP-hard, we should somehow solve the problem of satisfying  $S$  using exact inference in a Bayesian network  $N(S)$  constructed from  $S$ .

Consider a Bayesian network  $N(S)$  with Boolean variables  $A_1, \dots, A_m$  for atoms,  $C_1, \dots, C_n$  for clauses and  $S_2, \dots, S_n$  for conjunctions of the clauses so that  $S_i$  is to be true whenever  $C_1, \dots, C_i$  are true.

The CPTs associated with these nodes are constructed as follows.

- A node  $A_i$  associated with an atom  $A_i$  does not have parents and

$$P(a_i) = P(\neg a_i) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

- A node  $C_j$  associated with a clause  $C_j$  depends directly on the  $k$  atoms appearing in its literals;  $1 \leq k \leq 3$ . The node is deterministic (logical or) so that at most one of the  $2^k$  truth value combinations assigned to its parents makes  $C_j$  false. As regards CPT entries,  $P(c_j) = 0$  for that combination and  $P(c_j) = 1$  for others.
- The node  $S_2$  depends on  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  and  $P(s_2 | c_1, c_2) = 1$  and  $P(s_2) = 0$  otherwise. Thus  $S_2$  is also a deterministic node (logical and). Quite similarly, when  $i > 2$ ,  $S_i$  depends on  $S_{i-1}$  and  $C_i$ . The CPT associated with  $S_i$  is defined by  $P(s_i | s_{i-1}, c_i) = 1$  and  $P(s_i) = 0$  for other combinations.

Now we have the following interconnection: the 3-SAT instance  $S$  is unsatisfiable if and only if  $P(s_n) = 0$ . It is also important to note that  $N(S)$  can be constructed in time polynomial to the *length* of  $S$  (number of symbols needed to represent  $S$  as a string). To this end, it is really necessary to introduce  $S_2, \dots, S_n$ . If we tried to replace these Boolean variables by a single variable  $S$ , the respective CPT in  $N(S)$  would become exponential in  $n$  (which depends linearly on the length of  $S$ ). The moral is that we can save space substantially by introducing auxiliary variables.

2. (a) Obviously, we have  $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$ . The cumulative distribution for  $1 \leq j \leq k$  is obtained by summing up the first  $j$  probability values:

$$P(X \in \{x_1, \dots, x_j\}) = \sum_{i=1}^j P(X = x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^j p_i.$$

This distribution can be calculated for each  $j$  as follows (assuming an array  $p[1 \dots k]$  of the probability values):

for  $j = 1$  to  $k$  do  $cp[j] := p[j] + cp[j - 1]$ ;

A sample for  $X$  is obtained in time linear to  $k$  as follows:

```

r := random();
i := 1;
while cp[i] < r and i < k do i := i + 1;
sample := x[i];

```

Here the array  $x[1 \dots k]$  contains the discrete values of  $X$ . The search for the correct index value  $i$  can be boosted by binary search ( $\log_2 k$  time can be achieved).

- (b) Create an array  $\text{index}[1 \dots N]$  of index values  $1 \dots k$  so that for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$  there are  $\text{round}(p_i \times N)$  copies of  $i$  successively in the array. Then shuffle the array by doing  $N$  exchange operations:

```

for j = 1 to N do
  { i := round(random() × (N + 1 - j)) + (j - 1);
    c := index[j]; index[j] := index[i]; index[i] := c; }

```

Individual samples are generated by executing for each  $j$  in the range from 1 to  $N$  an assignment  $\text{sample} := x[\text{index}[j]]$ . The distribution obtained in this way may appear too “perfect” for small  $N$  but nevertheless this might be a good approximation to use.

Another possibility is to create an array  $\text{samples}[1 \dots M]$  that contains for each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $\text{round}(p_i \times M)$  successive copies of  $x_i$ . An individual sample is obtained by executing

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sample := samples[round(random() × M)].

```

About the choice of  $M$ : one possibility is that  $M \approx N$ , or alternatively  $M \ll N$ , e.g., if  $p_i \times M$  values turn out to be integers. The quality of the resulting distribution of  $X$  is now tightly connected to that of  $\text{random}()$ .

For the sake of simplicity, it is assumed above that  $\text{round}(\text{random}() \times n)$  gives us a random integer in the range  $1 \dots n$ .