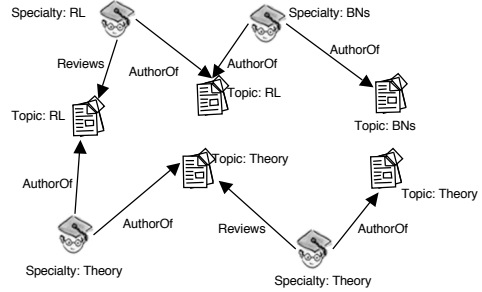


# Relational Probability Models

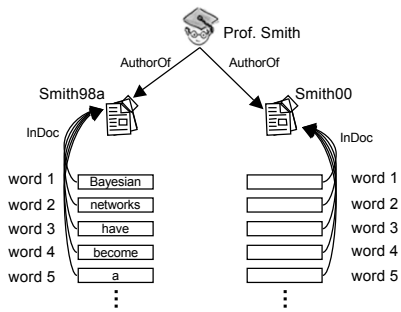
Brian Milch  
MIT

IPAM Summer School  
July 16, 2007

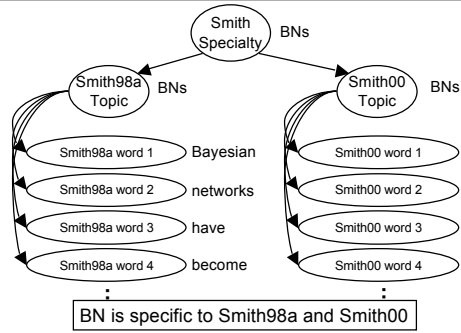
# Objects, Attributes, Relations



# Specific Scenario



# Bayesian Network for This Scenario



# Abstract Knowledge

- Humans have abstract knowledge that can be applied to any individuals
- How can such knowledge be:
  - Represented?
  - Learned?
  - Used in reasoning?

# Outline

- Relational probability models (RPMs)
  - Abstract probabilistic model for attributes + relational skeleton: objects & relations → graphical model
  - Representation
  - Inference
  - Learning
- Relational uncertainty: extending RPMs with probabilistic models for relations

## Representation



- Have to represent
  - Set of variables
  - Dependencies
  - Conditional probability distributions (CPDs)
- Many proposed languages
- We'll use Bayesian logic (BLOG)
 

[Milch et al. 2005]

All depend on relational skeleton

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## Typed First-Order Logic



- Objects divided into types  
Researcher, Paper, WordPos, Word, Topic
- Express attributes and relations with functions and predicates
  - FirstAuthor(paper) → Researcher (non-random)
  - Specialty(researcher) → Topic (random)
  - Topic(paper) → Topic (random)
  - Doc(wordpos) → Paper (non-random)
  - WordAt(wordpos) → Word (random)

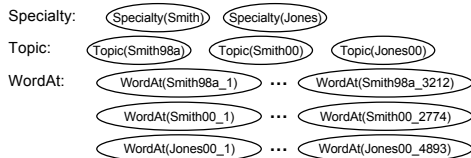
8

## Set of Random Variables



- For random functions, have variable for each tuple of argument objects

Researcher: Smith, Jones Paper: Smith98a, Smith00, Jones00  
WordPos: Smith98a\_1, ..., Smith98a\_3212, Smith00\_1, etc.



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## Dependency Statements



```

Specialty(z) ~ TabularCPD[[0.5, 0.3, 0.2]];
                                     BNS  RL  Theory
Topic(p) ~ TabularCPD[[0.90, 0.01, 0.09], | BNS
                   [0.02, 0.85, 0.13], | RL
                   [0.10, 0.10, 0.80]] | Theory
                (Specialty(FirstAuthor(p)));
                                     ↖ Logical term identifying parent node

WordAt(wp) ~ TabularCPD[[0.03, ..., 0.02, 0.001, ...], | BNS
                   [0.03, ..., 0.001, 0.02, ...], | RL
                   [0.03, ..., 0.003, 0.003, ...]] | Theory
                (Topic(Dec(wp)));
                                     the Bayesian reinforcement
    
```

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## Conditional Dependencies



- Predicting the length of a paper
  - Conference paper: generally equals conference page limit
  - Otherwise: depends on verbosity of author
- Model this with conditional dependency statement

Length(p) ↖ First-order formula as condition

```

if ConfPaper(p) then ~ PageLimitPrior()
else ~ LengthCPD(Verbosity(FirstAuthor(p)));
    
```

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## Variable Numbers of Parents



- What if we allow multiple authors?
  - Let skeleton specify predicate AuthorOf( $r, p$ )
- Topic( $p$ ) now depends on specialties of multiple authors

Number of parents depends on skeleton

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### Aggregation

- Aggregate distributions

multiset defined by formula

$$\text{Topic}(p) \sim \text{TopicAggCPD}(\{\text{Specialty}(r) \text{ for Researcher } r : \text{AuthorOf}(r, p)\});$$

mixture of distributions conditioned on individual elements of multiset [Taskar et al., IJCAI 2001]

- Aggregate values

aggregation function

$$\text{Topic}(p) \sim \text{TopicCPD}(\text{Mode}(\{\text{Specialty}(r) \text{ for Researcher } r : \text{AuthorOf}(r, p)\}));$$

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### Semantics: Ground BN

Skeleton

Ground BN

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### When Is Ground BN Acyclic?

[Koller & Pfeffer, AAAI 1998]

- Look at symbol graph
  - Node for each random function
  - Read off edges from dependency statements
- Theorem:** If symbol graph is acyclic, then ground BN is acyclic for every skeleton

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### Acyclic Relations

[Friedman et al., IJCAI 1999]

- Suppose researcher's specialty depends on his/her advisor's specialty

```
Specialty(x)
  if Advisor(x) != null then
    ~ SpecCPD(Specialty(Advisor(x)))
  else ~ SpecialtyPrior();
```

- Symbol graph has self-loop!
- Require certain nonrandom functions to be acyclic:  $F(x) < x$  under some partial order
- Label edges with "<" and "=" signs; get stronger acyclicity theorem

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### Inference: Knowledge-Based Model Construction (KBMC)

- Construct relevant portion of ground BN

[Breese 1992; Ngo & Haddawy 1997]

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### Inference on Constructed Network

- Run standard BN inference algorithm
  - Exact: variable elimination/junction tree
  - Approx: Gibbs sampling, loopy belief propagation
- Exploit some repeated structure with **lifted inference** [Pfeffer et al., UAI 1999; Poole, IJCAI 2003; de Salvo Braz et al., IJCAI 2005]

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## Lifted Inference



- Suppose:  $\text{Specialty}(x) \sim \text{SpecCPD}(\text{ThesisTopic}(x))$
- With  $n$  researchers, part of ground BN is:
- Could sum out ThesisTopic(R) nodes one by one
- But parameter sharing implies:
  - Summing same potential every time
  - Obtain same potential over Specialty(R) for each R
- Can just do summation once, eliminate whole family of RVs, store "lifted" potential on Specialty( $r$ )

[Pfeffer *et al.*, UAI 1999; Poole, IJCAI 2003; Braz *et al.*, IJCAI 2005] 19

## Learning



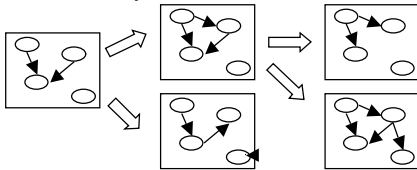
- Assume types, functions are given
- Straightforward task: given structure, learn parameters
  - Just like in BNs, but parameters are shared across variables for same function, e.g., Topic(Smith98a), Topic(Jones00), etc.
- Harder task: learn dependency structure

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## Structure Learning for BNs



- Find BN structure  $M$  that maximizes  $\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \log p(x; M)$
- Greedy local search over structures
  - Operators: add, delete, reverse edges
  - Exclude cyclic structures



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## Logical Structure Learning



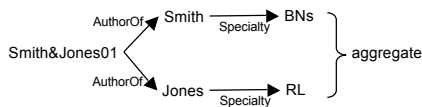
- In RPM, want logical specification of each node's parent set
- Deterministic analogue: inductive logic programming (ILP)
  - [Dzeroski & Lavrac 2001; Flach and Lavrac 2002]
- Classic work on RPMs by Friedman, Getoor, Koller & Pfeffer [1999]
  - We'll call their models FGKP models (they call them "probabilistic relational models" (PRMs))

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## FGKP Models



- Each dependency statement has form:  $\text{Func}(x) \sim \text{TabularCPD}[\dots](s_1, \dots, s_k)$  where  $s_1, \dots, s_k$  are slot chains
- Slot chains
  - Basically logical terms: Specialty(FirstAuthor(p))
  - But can also treat predicates as "multi-valued functions": Specialty(AuthorOf(p))

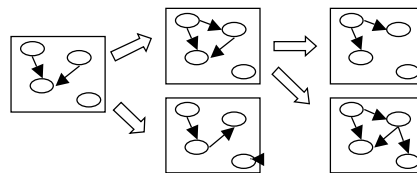


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## Structure Learning for FGKP Models



- Greedy search again
  - But add or remove whole slot chains
  - Start with chains of length 1, then 2, etc.
  - Check for acyclicity using symbol graph

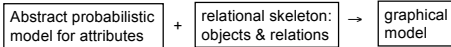


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## Outline



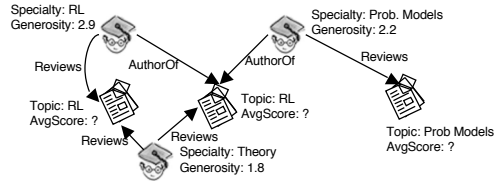
- Relational probability models (RPMs)



- Representation
- Inference
- Learning
- Relational uncertainty: extending RPMs with probabilistic models for relations

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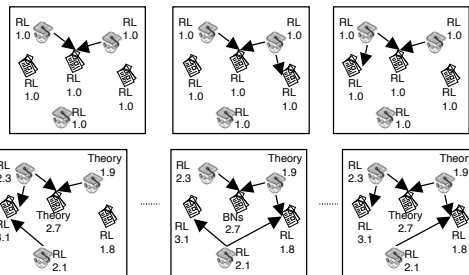
## Relational Uncertainty: Example



- Questions: Who will review my paper, and what will its average review score be?

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## Possible Worlds



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## Simplest Approach to Relational Uncertainty



- Add predicate  $Reviews(r, p)$
- Can model this with existing syntax:

$Reviews(x, p) \sim ReviewCPD(Specialty(x), Topic(p))$ ;

- Potential drawback:
  - $Reviews(r, p)$  nodes are independent given specialties and topics
  - Expected number of reviews per paper grows with number of researchers in skeleton

[Getoor et al., JMLR 2002] 28

## Another Approach: Reference Uncertainty



- Say each paper gets  $k$  reviews
  - Can add Review objects to skeleton
  - For each paper  $p$ , include  $k$  review objects  $rev$  with  $PaperReviewed(rev) = p$
- Uncertain about values of function  $Reviewer(rev)$



[Getoor et al., JMLR 2002] 29

## Models for Reviewer(rev)



- Explicit distribution over researchers?
  - No: won't generalize across skeletons
- Selection models:
  - Uniform sampling from researchers with certain attribute values [Getoor et al., JMLR 2002]
  - Weighted sampling, with weights determined by attributes [Pasula et al., IJCAI 2001]

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## Examples of Reference Uncertainty



- Choosing based on Specialty attribute

```
ReviewerSpecialty(rev) ~ SpecSelectionCPD
    (Topic(PaperReviewed(rev)));
Reviewer(rev) ~ Uniform({Researcher r :
    Specialty(r) = ReviewerSpecialty(rev)});
```

- Choosing by weighted sampling:

```
Weight(rev, r) = CompatibilityWeight
    (Topic(PaperReviewed(rev)), Specialty(r));
Reviewer(rev) ~ WeightedSample({(r, Weight(rev, r))
    for Researcher r});
```

set of pairs as CPD argument

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## Context-Specific Dependencies



```
RevScore(rev) ~ ScoreCPD(Generosity(Reviewer(rev)));
    random object
```

```
AvgScore(p) = Mean({RevScore(rev) for Review rev :
    PaperReviewed(Rev) = p});
```

- Consequence of relational uncertainty: dependencies become context-specific
  - RevScore(Rev1) depends on Generosity(R1) only when Reviewer(Rev1) = R1

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## Semantics: Ground BN



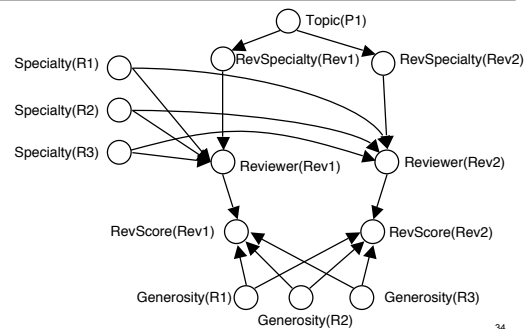
- Can still define ground BN
- Parents of node  $X$  are all basic RVs whose values are potentially relevant in evaluating the right hand side of  $X$ 's dependency statement
- Example: for RevScore(Rev1)...

```
RevScore(rev) ~ ScoreCPD(Generosity(Reviewer(rev)));
```

- Reviewer(Rev1) is always relevant
- Generosity(R) might be relevant for any researcher R

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## Ground BN



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## Inference



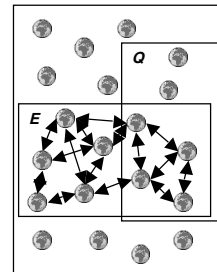
- Can still use ground BN, but it's often very highly connected
- Alternative: Markov chain over possible worlds [Pasula & Russell, IJCAI 2001]
  - In each world, only certain dependencies are active

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## Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)



- Markov chain  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots$  over worlds in  $E$
- Designed so unique stationary distribution is proportional to  $p(\omega)$
- Fraction of  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_N$  in  $Q$  converges to  $P(Q|E)$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$



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## Metropolis-Hastings MCMC



- Metropolis-Hastings process: in world  $\omega$ ,
  - sample new world  $\omega'$  from proposal distribution  $q(\omega'|\omega)$
  - accept proposal with probability



otherwise remain in  $\omega$

- Stationary distribution is  $p(\omega)$

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## Computing Acceptance Ratio Efficiently



- World probability is



where  $\text{pa}_{\omega}(X)$  is instantiation of  $X$ 's active parents in  $\omega$

- If proposal changes only  $X$ , then all factors not containing  $X$  cancel in  $p(\omega)$  and  $p(\omega')$
- Result: Time to compute acceptance ratio often doesn't depend on number of objects

[Pasula *et al.*, IJCAI 2001] 38

## Learning Models for Relations



- Binary predicate approach:

$\text{Reviews}(r, p) \sim \text{ReviewCPD}(\text{Specialty}(r), \text{Topic}(p));$

- Use existing search over slot chains

- Selecting based on attributes

$\text{ReviewerSpecialty}(\text{rev}) \sim \text{SpecSelectionCPD}(\text{Topic}(\text{PaperReviewed}(\text{rev})));$

$\text{Reviewer}(\text{rev}) \sim \text{Uniform}(\{\text{Researcher } r : \text{Specialty}(r) = \text{ReviewerSpecialty}(\text{rev})\});$

- Search over sets of attributes to look at
- Search over parent slot chains for choosing attribute values

[Getoor *et al.*, JMLR 2002] 39

## Summary



- Human knowledge is more abstract than basic graphical models
- Relational probability models
  - Logic-based representation
  - Structure learning by search over slot chains
  - Inference by KBMC
- Relational uncertainty
  - Natural extension to logic-based representation
  - Approximate inference by MCMC

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