



Approximate Inference methods for Advanced Bayesian networks

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Motivation

Bayesian nets methodology

Different data sets implemented

Bayesian Update (Inference)

Method 1: Naïve approximate inference

Method 2: Approximate LP inference

Case study

Results

Conclusions

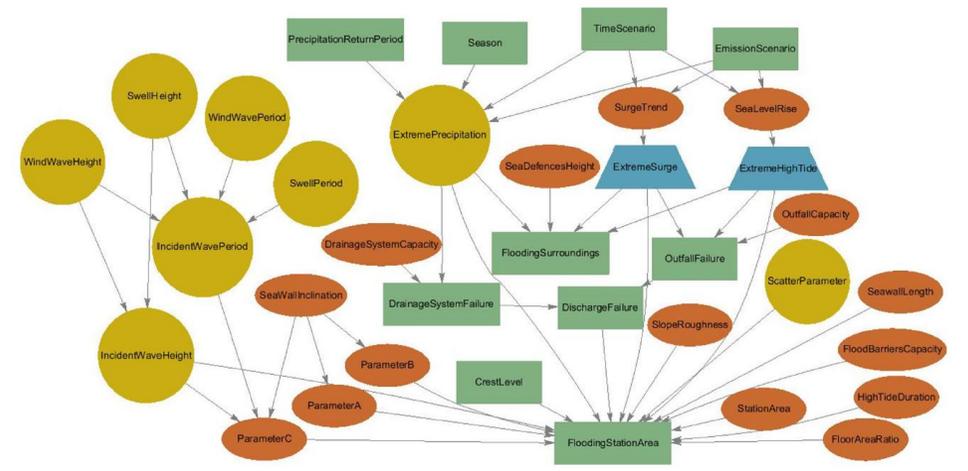
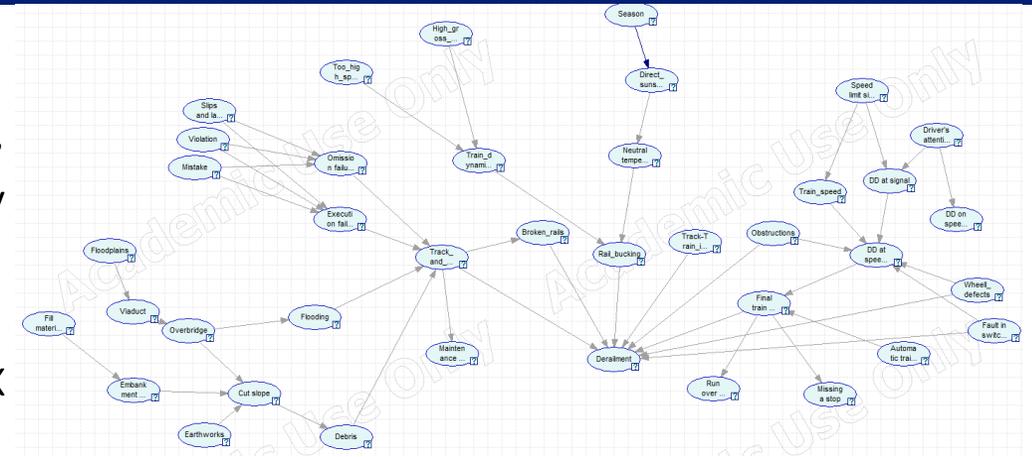
Motivation

- Risk factors representation and uncertainty quantification is complicated in large infrastructure projects.
- Multidisciplinary nature needs a standard tool to facilitate risk communication.
- Risk management must take into consideration the uncertainty factors in the system.



Motivation

- Probabilistic graphical models (like Bayes nets), effective mathematical tool for uncertainty quantification and system modelling.
- Allows to capture variable dependencies of complex systems.
- Inference computation is a key method to update outcomes in Bayesian networks.
- Reliable method of inference computation in Credal networks is necessary.



Enhanced Bayesian Network^[*].

[*]S. Tolo, E. Patelli, and M. Beer, "Robust vulnerability analysis of nuclear facilities subject to external hazards," *Stoch. Environ. Res. Risk Assess.*, vol. 31, no. 10, pp. 2733-- 2756, 2017.

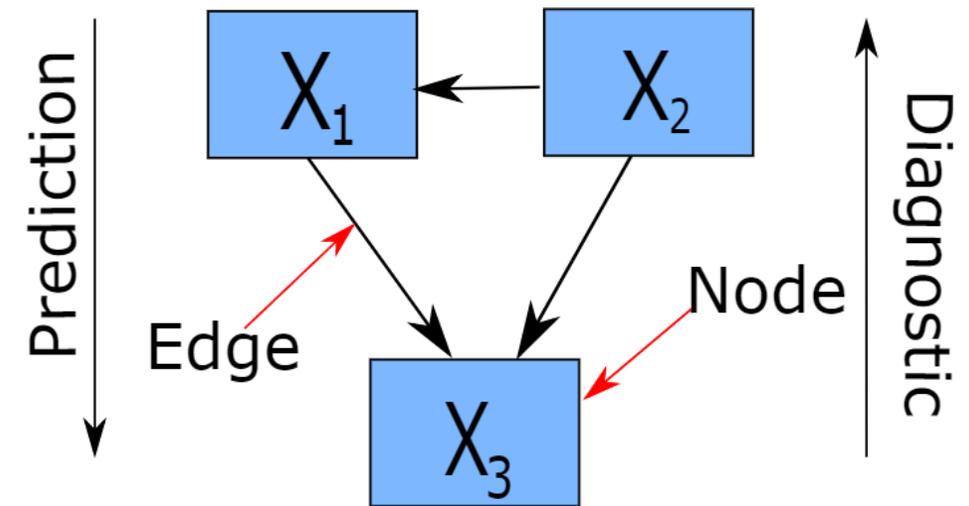
Bayesian Networks

A Bayesian network is a probabilistic graphical model to study and analyse the dependencies of components (random variables) that make up a system.

- The Joint Probability Distribution (JPD) describes entirely network's dependability,

$$P(x_i) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i|\pi_i)$$

- By introducing evidence, infer updated outcomes.
- Intuitive and relatively easy to implement.



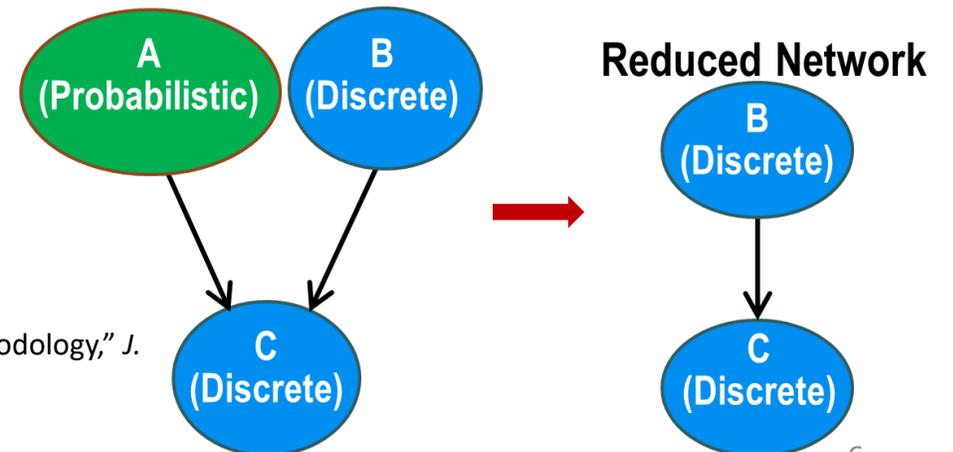
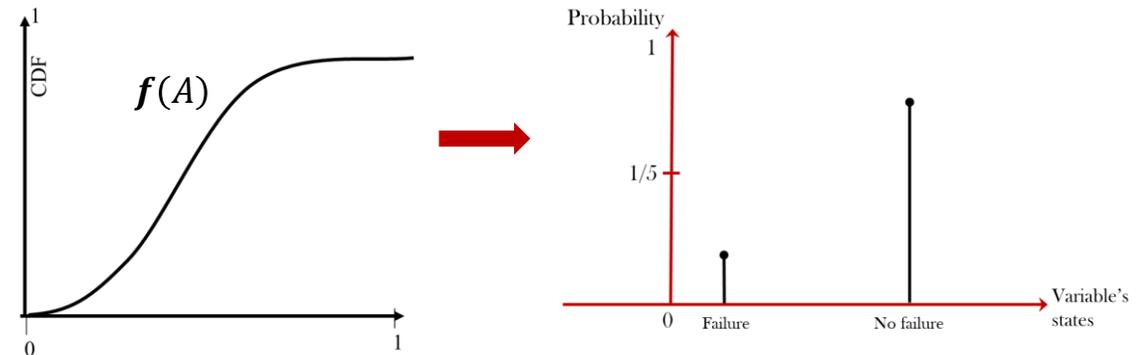
Enhanced Bayesian Networks

Bayesian Networks enhanced* with Structural Reliability Methods (SRM) permit to calculate the conditional probability values of discrete children that come from continuous-parent nodes.

- Calculation of conditional probabilities consist in the approximation of the failure probability.

$$P(C|B) = \int_{\Omega_{C,b}^c} f(A) dA$$

$f(A)$: Probability Density Function of continuous node A. $\Omega_{C,b}^c$ is the domain when $C=c$ in the space of C given $B=b$.



[*] D. Straub and A. Der Kiureghian, "Bayesian Network Enhanced with Structural Reliability Methods: Methodology," *J. Eng. Mech.*, vol. 136, no. 10, pp. 1248--1258, Oct. 2010.

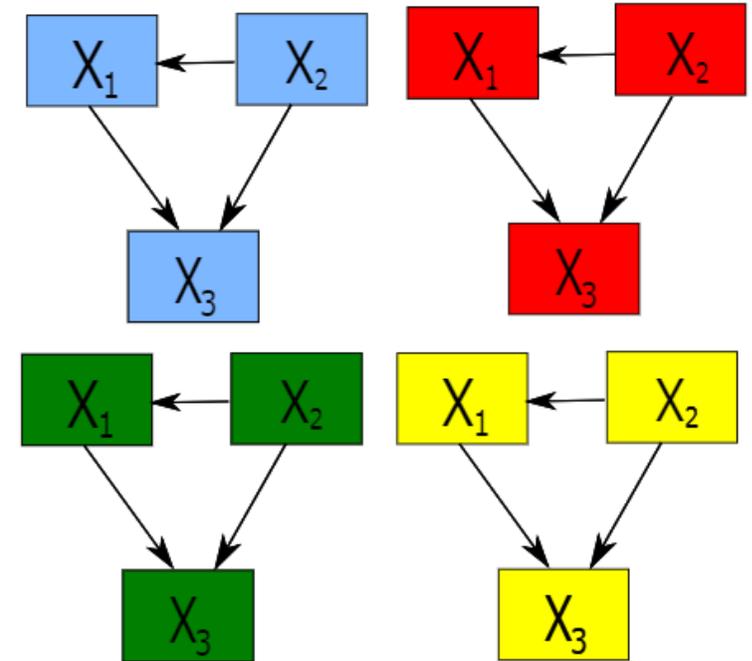
Imprecise data sets (discrete): Credal Networks

Generalization of BN to implement imprecise discrete variables in the form of intervals.

- Imprecision is represented through the so called credal sets $K(x_i)$.

$$K(x_i) := CH \left\{ P(x_i) \mid P(x_i) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | \pi_i) \right\}$$

- CNs inherit all the probabilistic and graphical characteristics of BNs.
- A CN is a **set of BNs**, each with different probability values.



Different extreme points combinations make a set of BNs that makes up a CN.

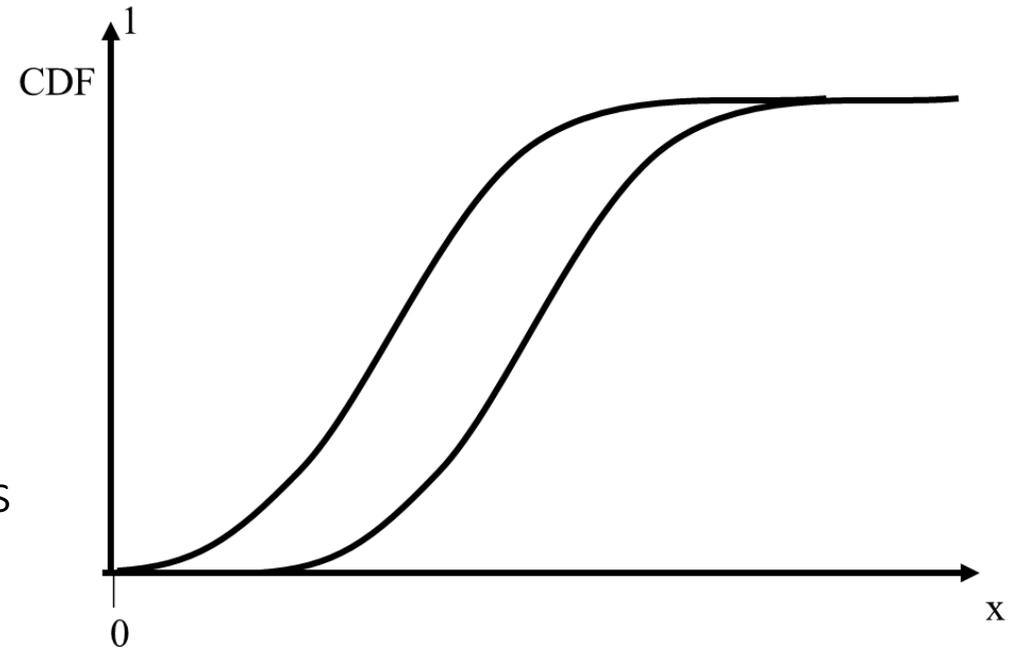
Imprecise datasets (continuous): Probability boxes

A characterization of an uncertain continuous measure in the cumulative distribution space.

- When using SRM failure probability is now represented as:

$$\bar{P}_f = \max_{\theta} \int_{g(x) < 0} p(x, \theta) dx$$

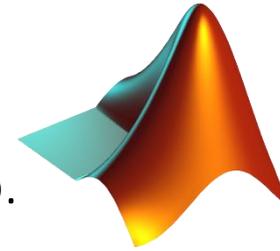
- In this way, the continuous probability distributions affected by **aleatoric** and **epistemic uncertainty** are taken into account.



Computational toolbox

OpenCossan

- It takes advantage of Object-Oriented programming in Matlab.
- Parallelization of high demanding tasks.
- Easy connectable with 3rd party toolboxes.
- Excellent platform for EBN.



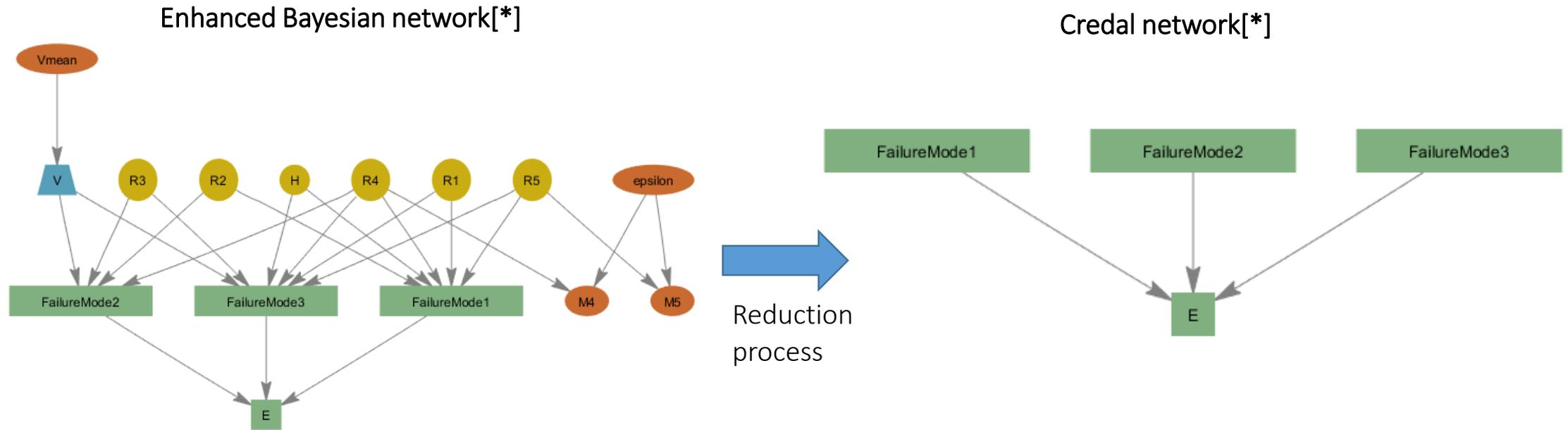
www.cossan.co.uk



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Enhanced BN to Credal nets



Enhanced Bayesian network [*] (Advanced BN)

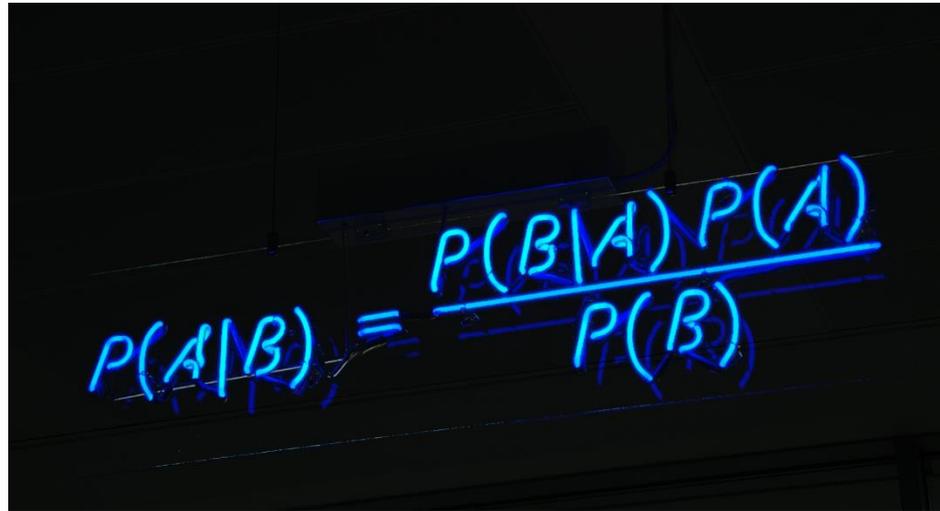
- Rectangle-Discrete
- Ellipse-Interval
- Circle-Continuous
- Trapezoid- P-box

- Rectangle-Interval

[*] Silvia Tolo, Tutorial Enhanced Bayesian networks. OpenCossan Tutorial.

Bayesian updating (Inference)

Computation of posterior distribution, $P(A|B)$, of a query node (A) given (or not) evidence (B).

A photograph of a chalkboard with the equation for Bayes' Theorem written in blue chalk. The equation is $P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$. The chalkboard has a dark background and the text is written in a clear, legible hand.

Bayes' Theorem

Bayesian updating (example)

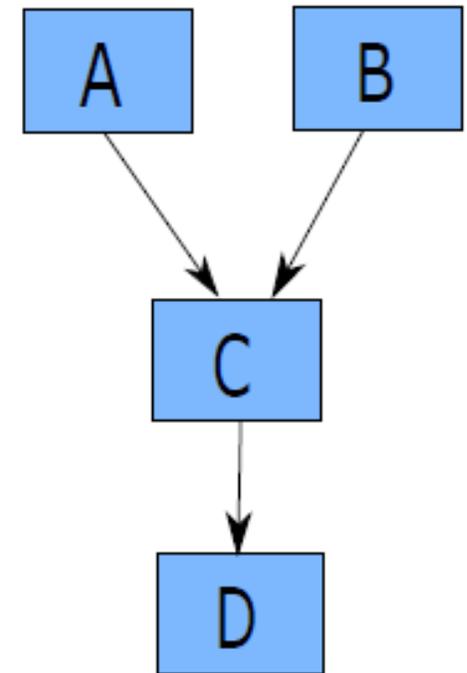
Computation of posterior distribution, $P(A|B)$, of a query node (A) given (or not) evidence (B).

JPD of the network N with binary variables :

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

What if we can to compute $P(C_1|D_1)$?

$$P(C_1|D_1) = \frac{\sum_{A,B} P(N)}{\sum_{A,B,C} P(D_1)}$$

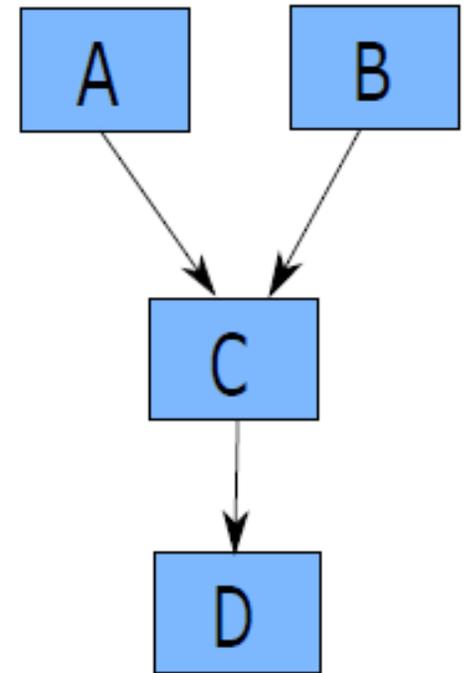


Traditional BN

Bayesian updating (example)

Where:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{A,B} P(N) &= \\ P(D=D_1 \mid C=C_1) \sum_A P(A) \sum_B P(B) P(C=C_1 \mid A,B) &= \\ P(D=D_1 \mid C=C_1) P(A=A_1) P(B=B_1) P(C=C_1 \mid A=A_1, B=B_1) &+ \\ P(D=D_1 \mid C=C_1) P(A=A_1) P(B=B_2) P(C=C_1 \mid A=A_1, B=B_2) &+ \\ P(D=D_1 \mid C=C_1) P(A=A_2) P(B=B_1) P(C=C_1 \mid A=A_1, B=B_1) &+ \\ P(D=D_1 \mid C=C_1) P(A=A_2) P(B=B_2) P(C=C_1 \mid A=A_1, B=B_2) & \end{aligned}$$

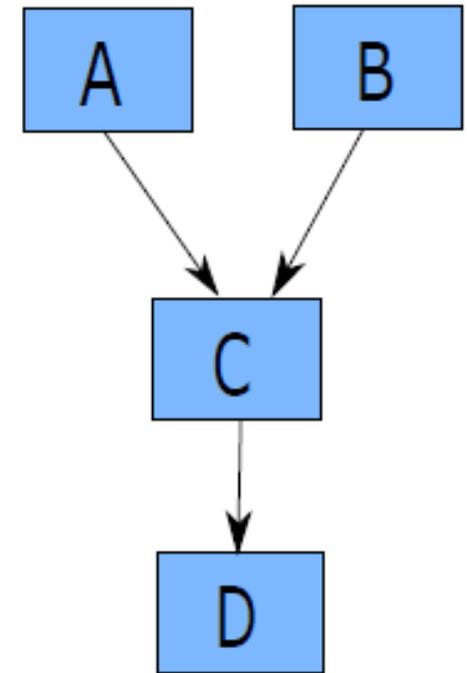


Traditional BN

Bayesian updating (example)

Where:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{A,B,C} P(D=D_1) = \\ & \sum_A P(A) \sum_B P(B) P(C | A,B) \sum_C P(D=D_1 | C) \\ & = P(A=A_1)P(B=B_1)P(C=C_1 | A=A_1,B=B_1)P(D=D_1 | C=C_1) \\ & + P(A=A_1)P(B=B_1)P(C=C_2 | A=A_1,B=B_1)P(D=D_1 | C=C_2) \\ & + P(A=A_1)P(B=B_2)P(C=C_1 | A=A_1,B=B_2)P(D=D_1 | C=C_1) \\ & + P(A=A_1)P(B=B_2)P(C=C_2 | A=A_1,B=B_2)P(D=D_1 | C=C_2) \\ & + P(A=A_2)P(B=B_1)P(C=C_1 | A=A_1,B=B_1)P(D=D_1 | C=C_1) \\ & + P(A=A_2)P(B=B_1)P(C=C_2 | A=A_1,B=B_1)P(D=D_1 | C=C_2) \\ & + P(A=A_2)P(B=B_2)P(C=C_1 | A=A_1,B=B_2)P(D=D_1 | C=C_1) \\ & + P(A=A_2)P(B=B_2)P(C=C_2 | A=A_1,B=B_2)P(D=D_1 | C=C_2) \end{aligned}$$



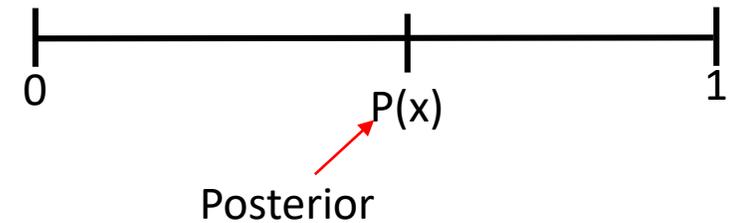
Traditional BN

Exact inference

Exact inference methods:

- Variable elimination (Marginalization).
- Junction tree algorithm (Clique tree).
- Recursive conditioning.
- And/Or search.

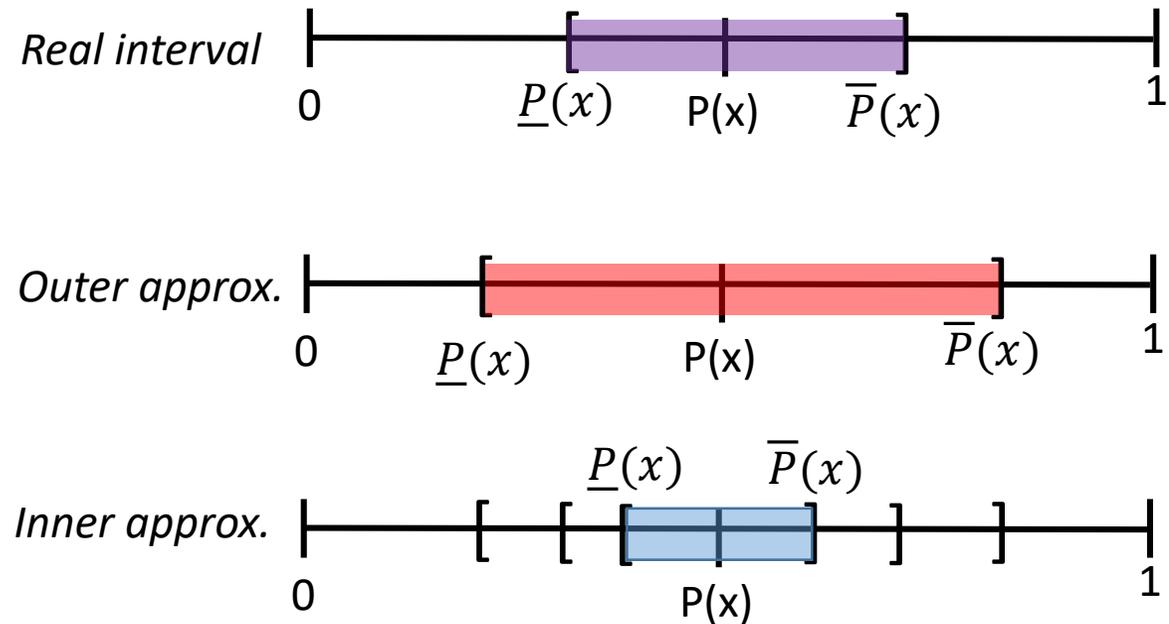
This method is applicable to traditional and relatively small BNs.



Inference with intervals

Approximate inference.

- Inner and outer approximation.
- Linear programming approximation.
- Importance sampling.
- Stochastic MCMC simulation.
- Mini-bucket elimination.
- Generalized belief propagation.
- Variational methods.



Inference with intervals

It is based on the joint credal set definition to calculate the bounds of the marginal probability as:

$$\underline{P}(x_0) := \min_{P(\mathbf{X}) \in K(\mathbf{X})} P(x_0) = \min_{\substack{P(X_i|\pi_i) \in K(X_i|\pi_i) \\ \pi_i \in \Omega_{\Pi_i}, i=0, \dots, n}} \sum_{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n} \prod_{i=0}^n P(x_i|\pi_i)$$

$$\overline{P}(x_0) := \max_{P(\mathbf{X}) \in K(\mathbf{X})} P(x_0) = \max_{\substack{P(X_i|\pi_i) \in K(X_i|\pi_i) \\ \pi_i \in \Omega_{\Pi_i}, i=0, \dots, n}} \sum_{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n} \prod_{i=0}^n P(x_i|\pi_i)$$

This represents a non-linear optimization problem with a multilinear objective function. (The head ache of CN inference).

Method 1: Naïve approach (Outer approximation)*

- Take the joint probability distribution function of upper bounds of all the variables in the net. Artificial JPDs are created (each containing a case of the query node).

$$P(\overline{\mathbf{F}}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}}) = \begin{bmatrix} p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1}) & p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1}) \\ p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1}) & p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1}) \\ p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2}) & p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2}) \\ p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2}) & p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2}) \end{bmatrix}$$

← Artificial Joint Probability Distribution

- Outer approximation obtained by computing exact inference in 2 artificial JPDs. 1 containing the all-lower and another the all-upper bounds.

[*]S. Tolo, E. Patelli, and M. Beer, "An Inference Method for Bayesian Networks with Probability Intervals," *ICVRAM ISUMA UNCERTAINTIES conference proceedings*, no. April, 2018.

Method 1: Naïve approach (inner approximation)

- Take the joint probability distribution function of upper bounds of all the variables in the net. Artificial JPDs are created (each containing a case of the query node).

$$P(\overline{\mathbf{F}}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}}) = \begin{bmatrix} p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1}) & p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1}) \\ p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1}) & p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1}) \\ p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2}) & p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2}) \\ p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2}) & p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2}) \end{bmatrix}$$

 *Artificial Joint Probability Distribution*

- Inner approximation is obtained by finding the artificial JPD that maximizes and minimizes the posterior probability of queried variable.

$$\max \left[\frac{P(\overline{F_1}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}})}{P(\overline{F_2}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}})} \right] = \max \begin{bmatrix} \frac{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1})} & \frac{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2})} \\ \frac{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2})} & \frac{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2})} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\min \left[\frac{P(\overline{F_1}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}})}{P(\overline{F_2}, \overline{\mathbf{S}}, \overline{\mathbf{A}})} \right] = \min \begin{bmatrix} \frac{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2})} & \frac{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_1}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2})} \\ \frac{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_1}, \overline{A_2})} & \frac{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_1})}{p(\overline{F_2}, \overline{S_2}, \overline{A_2})} \end{bmatrix}$$

Method 2: Approximate inference

- Approximate inference with Linear programming. Optimization task.
- Reduce credal sets to singletons called Extreme Points $\tilde{P}(X_i|\pi_i) \in \text{ext}[K(X_i|\pi_i)]$ different from the Free variable X_j .

So the constrained queried-variable (x_0) lower bound is:

$$\underline{P}'(x_0) := \min_{\substack{P(X_j|\pi_j) \in K(X_j|\pi_j) \\ \pi_j \in \Omega_{\Pi_j}}} \sum_{x_j, \pi_j} \underbrace{\left[\tilde{P}(x_0|x_j, \pi_j) \cdot \tilde{P}(\pi_j) \right]}_{\text{Linear combination of } X_j \text{ local probabilities.}} \cdot P(x_j|\pi_j)$$

Linear combination of X_j local probabilities.

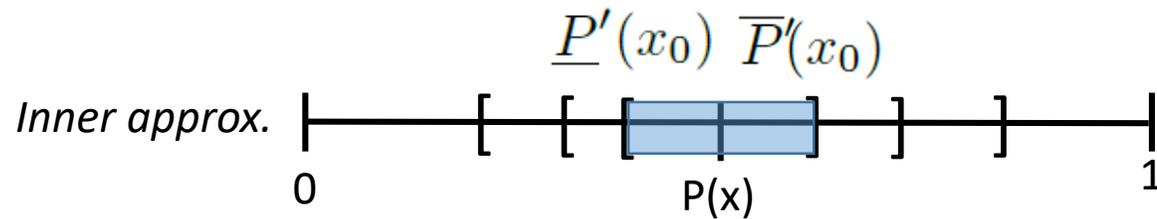
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- Iterations over X_j are done to perform a local search.
- Once an approximation (extreme point) to the optimal solution is calculated. The X_j variable released and a new X_j is used as the free variable.
- The programme stops iterating when no further improved approximation is found.

Method 2: Approximate inference

- $\underline{P}'(x_0)$ upper approximation of lower probability bound $\underline{P}(x_0)$ of the CN.
- $\overline{P}'(x_0)$ is lower approximation of the upper bound $\overline{P}(x_0)$ of the CN.

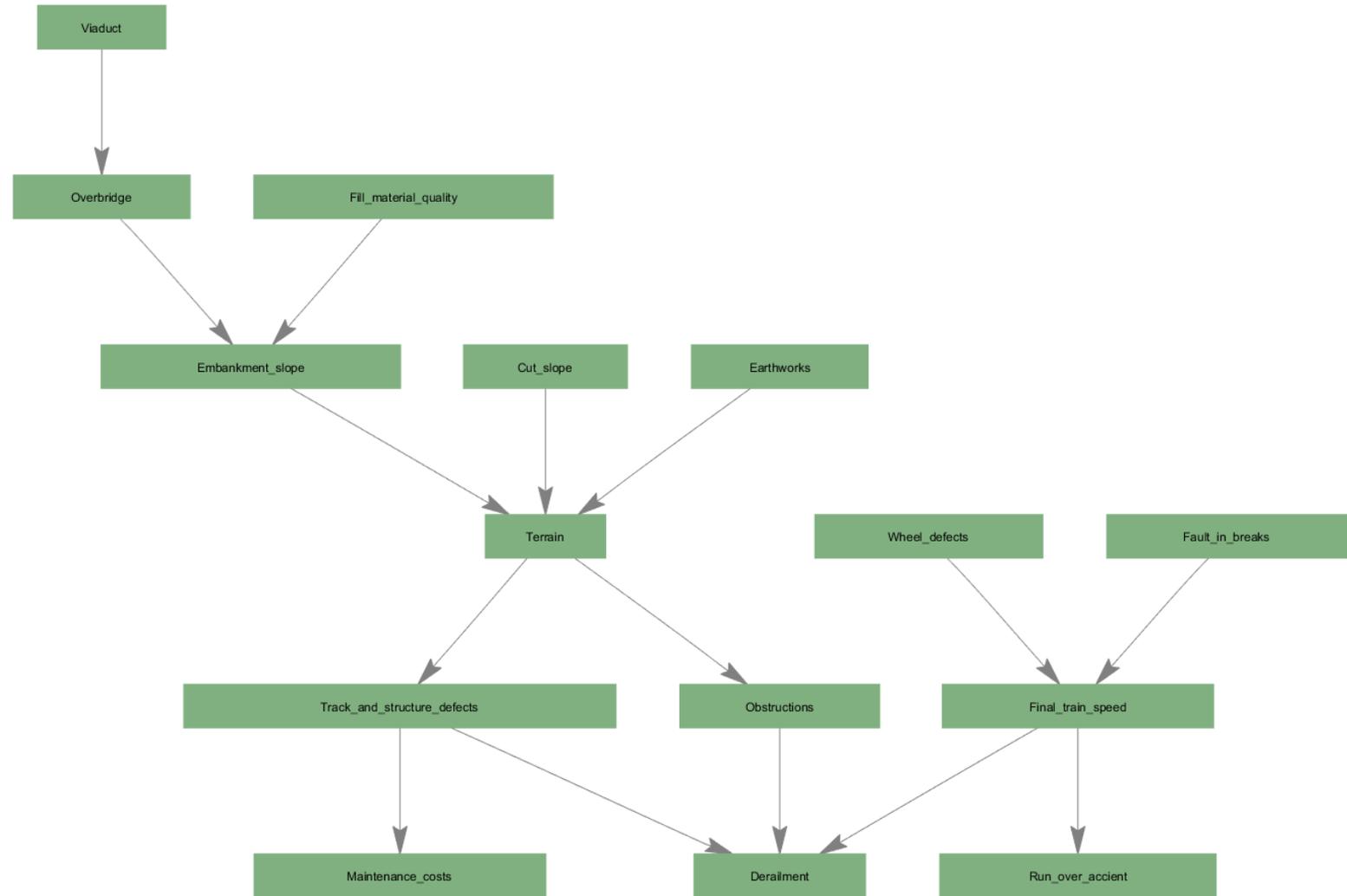


A. Antonucci, C. P. De Campos, D. Huber, and M. Zaffalon, "Approximate credal network updating by linear programming with applications to decision making," *Int. J. Approx. Reason.*, vol. 58, pp. 25–38, 2015.

Case of study: Railway system

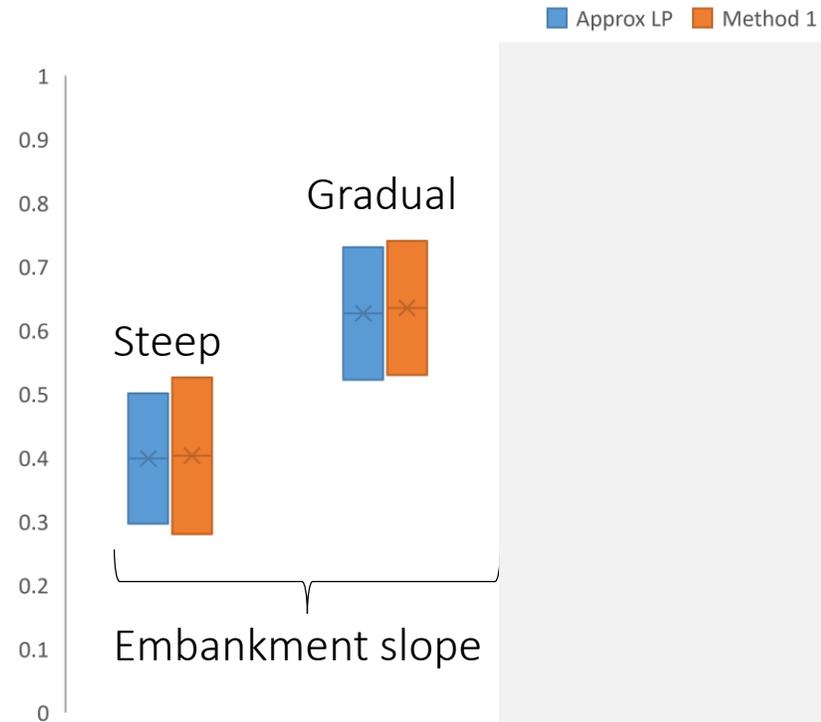
Derailment probability, taking into account:

- Obstructions in the railway due to:
 - Earthworks
 - Terrain
- Train speed.
- Damage in the tracks.



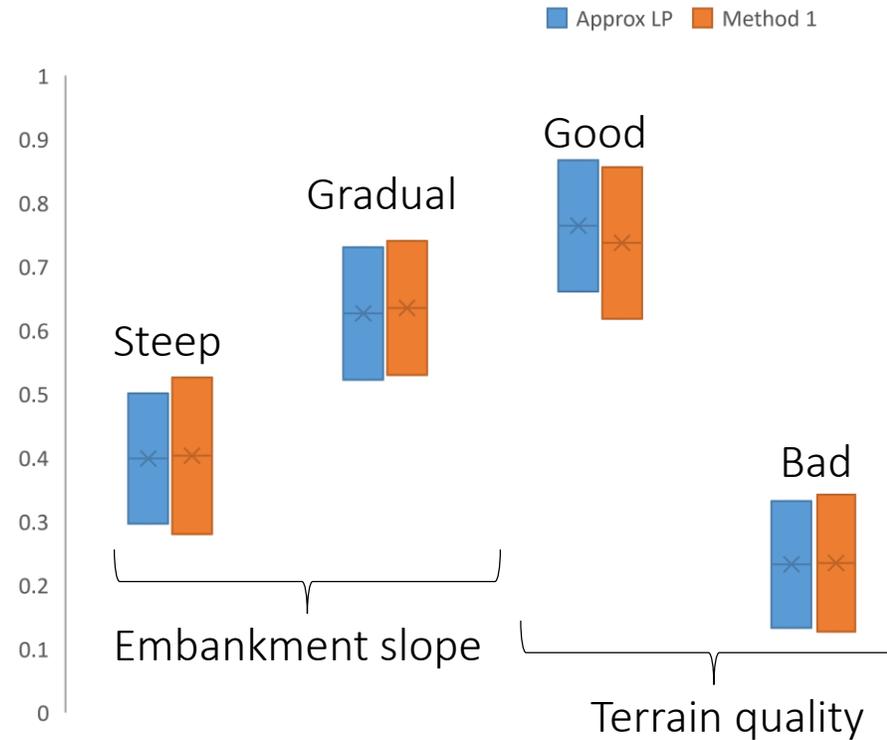
Results

- Embankment slope over which the rail tracks are placed.
- Terrain quality depending on:
 - Earthworks
 - Cut slopes
 - Embankment slope steepness
- Derailment, due to factors:
 - Final train speed
 - Track obstructions
 - Track defects



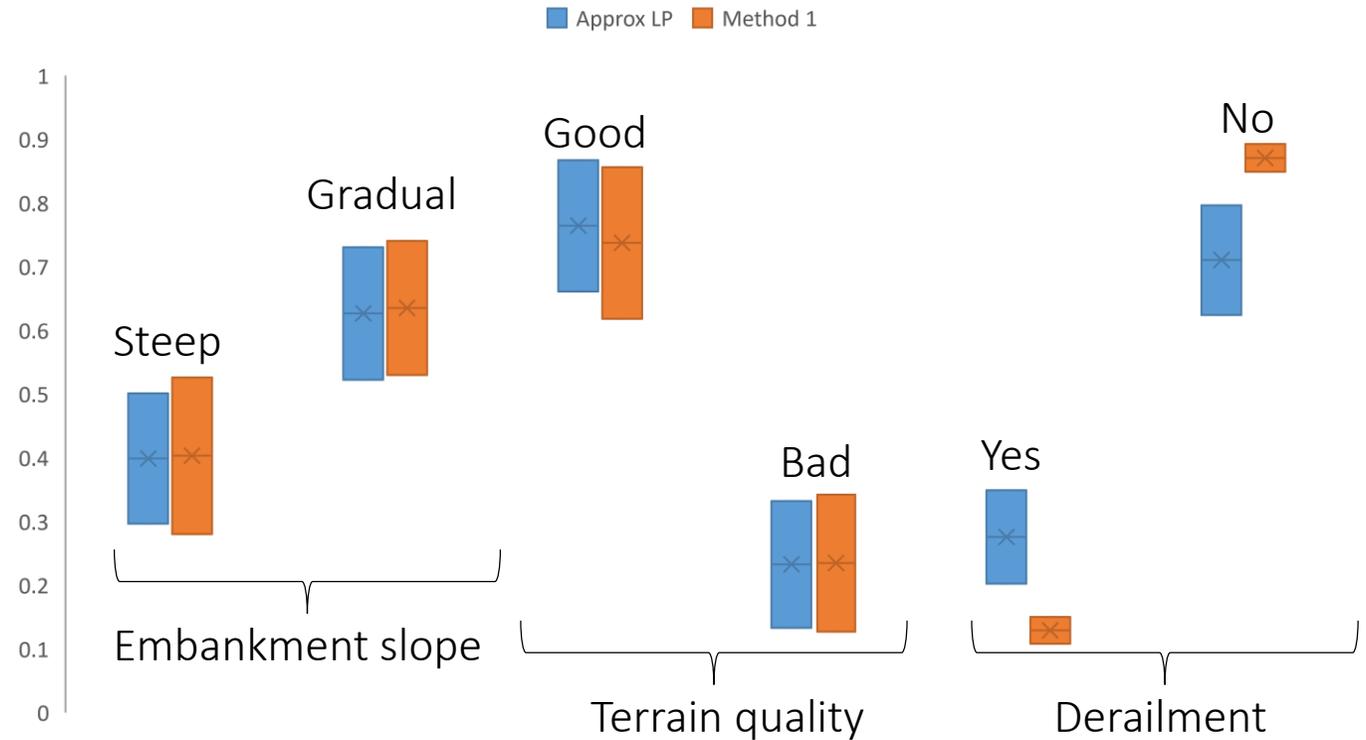
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Results

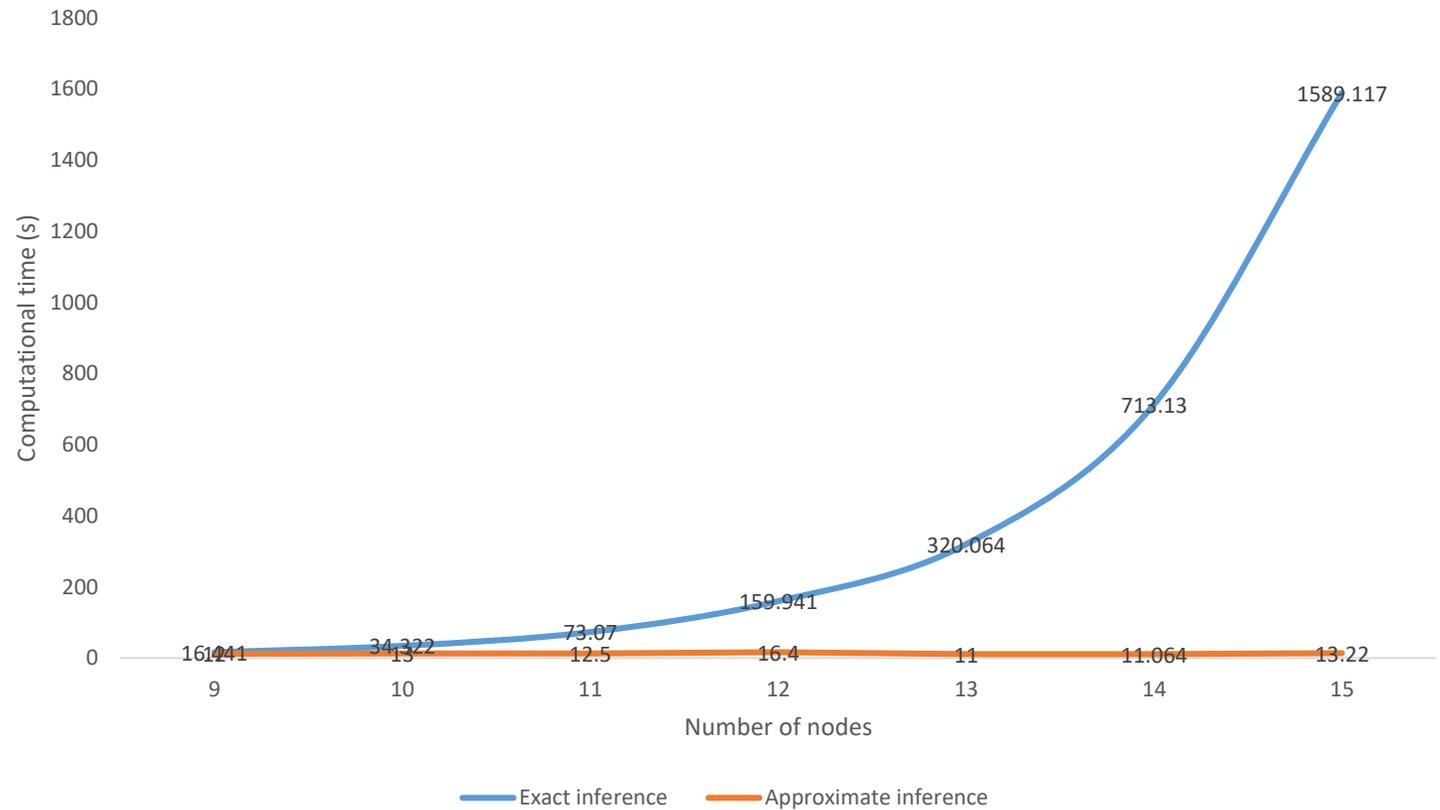
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Computational time

Results

- Obstructions in the railway due to:
 - Earthworks
 - Terrain
- Train speed.
- Damage in the tracks.



Method 1: Naïve inference

- ✓ This method is computationally cheap.
 - ✓ Reliable when **extreme scenarios** are of the interest.
 - ✓ Real probability values will be enclosed inside the bounds.
 - ✓ Uncertainty attached to the bounds provided.
 - ✓ No need for inference computation on node-state combination irrelevant.
-
- Boolean variables.
 - Overestimation of upper bounds.
 - Underestimation of lower bounds.
 - Not suitable for large networks, number of inference computations increase as 2^n .

Method 2: Approximate inference

- ✓ Does not suffer from **large credal sets**.
 - ✓ Follows the same topology of BN.
 - ✓ Does not requires to indicate the extreme points.
 - ✓ It can be used with variables with **many states and/or parents**.
 - ✓ Provides inner approximate solutions.
 - ✓ **Fast and accurate**.
-
- Local credal sets specified by lean constraints.*
 - Not for local credal sets given by explicit enumeration of the extreme points.
 - Outer approximations are currently excluded.
 - A combination of inner with outer approximations can bring reliable inferences.

Conclusions

- Two different inference computation methods were tested to compare their performance.
- The use of interval probabilities allows to consider a broader range data types (imprecise data sets).
- Imprecise probabilities allows to take into account epistemic uncertainty due to the vagueness or lack of data.
- This model can be applicable to different complex technological facilities.
- Work is carried out to provide a reliable method to provide an outer approximation of the probability bounds and study convergence.

WPMSIIP 2018,
Oviedo, Spain

Questions?



Approximate inference methods for Advanced Bayesian networks

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