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Abstract

This paper presents a new approach to inference in Bayesian networks with Boolean variables. The principal idea is to encode the network by logical sentences and to compile the resulting CNF into a deterministic DNNF. From there, all possible queries are answerable in linear time relative to its size. This makes it a potential solution for real-time applications of probabilistic inference with limited computational resources. The underlying idea is similar to Darwiche's differential approach to inference in Bayesian networks, but the core of the proposed CNF encoding is slightly different. This alternative encoding enables a more intuitive and elegant solution, which is apparently more efficient.

CR Categories and Subject Descriptors:

- I.2.3 [Artificial Intelligence]: Deduction and Theorem Proving uncertainty, "fuzzy" and probabilistic reasoning;
- I.2.3 [Artificial Intelligence]: Deduction and Theorem Proving inference engines;
- I.2.4 [Artificial Intelligence]: Knowledge Representation Formalisms and Methods Representation languages

General Terms:

Algorithms, Theory

1 Introduction

As Bayesian networks are more and more applied to complex real-world applications, the development of fast and flexible inference methods becomes increasingly important. In the last decades, researchers have developed various kinds of exact and approximate inference algorithms, each of them with corresponding advantages and disadvantages. Some methods are particularly designed for real-time inference with limited computational resources such as time or memory. See [13] for a comprehensive and compact survey.

A particular real-time inference method is the differential approach proposed in [9]. It suggests to view a Bayesian network as a *multi-linear function* (MLF), the so-called *network polynomial*, from which answers to probabilistic queries are retrieved by differentiating the polynomial. Relative to the given Bayesian network, the network polynomial is exponential in size, but it is possible to efficiently encode it by a CNF of linear size. As suggested in [8], this CNF is then compiled

into a *decomposable negation normal form* (DNNF) with the additional properties of *smoothness* and *determinism* [7]. The resulting sd-DNNF is an intermediate step, from which an arithmetic circuit is extracted, whose size is not necessarily exponential relative to the original Bayesian network. This arithmetic circuit is guaranteed to compute the original network polynomial, and can therefore be used to obtain all necessary partial derivatives in time (and space) linear in its size. In its essence, the aim of the whole procedure is to generate a preferably optimal factoring of the network polynomial.

Such a logical approach is beneficial in many ways. The most important advantage is the ability to encode *context-specific independences*, i.e. local regularities in the given conditional probability tables [2]. This inherently includes appropriate solutions for the particular type of CPT obtained from noisy-OR and noisy-AND nodes or from purely logical relations. In comparison with classical inference methods such as join-tree propagation or message-passing, which do not directly exploit such local structures, there has been reports of tremendous improvements in both compile time and online inference [3, 4]. Another advantage is the ability to efficiently update numerical computations with minimal computational overhead. This is a key prerequisite for experimental sensitivity analyses.

1.1 Overview of Method

The starting point of our method is a logical representation ψ of the Bayesian network. For this, a proposition $\theta_{x|y}$ is attributed to each CPT entry P(x|y) of a network variable X. In this paper, our discussion is restricted to Boolean variables, i.e. we can attribute an additional proposition x to each network variable X and use it for the event X=true and its negation for X=false. As a result, the logical representation ψ consists of two types of propositions, the ones linked to the CPT entries and the ones linked to the network variables. The corresponding sets of propositions are denoted by Θ and Δ , respectively.

In order to use the logical representation ψ to compute the posterior probability $P(\mathbf{q}|\mathbf{e}) = P(\mathbf{q} \wedge \mathbf{e})/P(\mathbf{e})$ of a query event $\mathbf{q} = q_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge q_r$ given the evidence $\mathbf{e} = e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_s$, it is sufficient to look at the simpler problem of computing prior probabilities $P(\mathbf{x})$ of arbitrary conjunctions $\mathbf{x} = x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_r$ in order to obtain corresponding numerators $P(\mathbf{q} \wedge \mathbf{e})$ and denominators $P(\mathbf{e})$. Our solution for this consists of the following three steps:

- 1. Condition ψ on **x** to obtain ψ |**x**.
- 2. Eliminate (forget) from $\psi | \mathbf{x}$ the propositions Δ . The resulting logical representation of $[\psi | \mathbf{x}]^{-\Delta}$ consists of propositions from Θ only.
- 3. Compute the probability of the event represented by $[\psi|\mathbf{x}]^{-\Delta}$ to obtain $P(\mathbf{x}) = P([\psi|\mathbf{x}]^{-\Delta})$. For this, we assume that the propositions $\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} \in \Theta$ are probabilistically independent and that $P(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}) = P(x|\mathbf{y})$ are the respective marginal probabilities.

For the choice of an appropriate target compilation language for ψ , it is thus necessary to select a language that supports two transformations (conditioning and forgetting) and one query (probability computation) in polynomial time. At first sight, just by looking at the results given in [11] or [18], it seems that no such language exists. However, as we will see in this paper, we can exploit the fact that the propositional variables in Δ satisfy a certain property w.r.t. ψ . The particular form of forgetting such *deterministic* variables will be called *deterministic forgetting*, and we will see that it is (at least) supported by DNNFs and d-DNNFs. Among them, probability computations are only supported by d-DNNFs, and our search for an appropriate target compilation language for Bayesian networks thus leads to d-DNNFs, the only representation language that supports all necessary operations of the above procedure in polynomial time.

1.2 Contribution and Outline

The conclusion that d-DNNFs should be used as target compilation language for Bayesian networks confirms Darwiche's precursory work in [8], but it also shows that Darwiche's additional requirement of smoothness is dispensable. While the actual reasons for this conclusion and the exact role of smoothness remain rather nebulous in [8], a precise and conclusive explanation in terms of the (extended) knowledge compilation map is given in this paper.

Another contribution of this paper is the proposal of an alternative CNF encoding, which finally enables a more direct computational procedure in terms of a few basic operations of the knowledge compilation map. In our opinion, this is a significant simplification over Darwiche's original method of viewing posterior probabilities as partial derivatives of multi-linear functions, from which the rather cumbersome process of transforming the CNF encoding via a smooth d-DNNF to an arithmetic circuit (with all negative literals set to 1) results. In the light of this paper, some steps of this process appear as an unnecessary detour.

In a nutshell, we believe that the method of this paper is an important contribution to the area of compiling Bayesian networks, mainly as a significant advancement in terms of clarity and simplicity. First steps towards empirically testing the efficiency of the proposed method also report some considerable improvements (see Section 4), but this has not yet been verified on a broader scale.

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section 2 provides a short summary of possible representations of Boolean functions and the corresponding knowledge compilation map. We will also introduce the concepts of deterministic variables and deterministic forgetting, and extend the knowledge compilation map accordingly. The topic of Section 3 is the logical representation and evaluation of Bayesian networks. This part includes the main theorems of the paper. Section 4 displays the differences to the logical representation proposed by Darwiche. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2 Representing Boolean Functions

Consider a set V of r Boolean variables and a Boolean function (BF) $f : \mathbb{B}^r \to \mathbb{B}$ with $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$. Such a function f can also be viewed as the set of r-dimensional vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{B}^r$ for which f evaluates to 1. This is the so-called *satisfying set* $S_f = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{B}^r : f(\mathbf{x}) = 1\}$ of f, for which an efficient representation has to be found [5].

2.1 Representation Languages

To start with the least restrictive view w.r.t. possible representation languages, consider the concept of a propositional DAG (or PDAG for short). According to [18], PDAGs are rooted, directed, acyclic graphs, in which each leaf node is represented by \bigcirc and labeled with \top (true), \bot (false), or $x \in V$. Each non-leaf node is represented by \triangle (logical and), \triangledown (logical or), or \diamond (logical not). The set of all possible PDAGs of V is called *language* and denoted by PDAG_V or simply PDAG. The example depicted in Fig. 1 represents the odd parity function with respect to $V = \{a, b, c, d\}$.



Figure 1: A PDAG representing the odd parity function with respect to $V = \{a, b, c, d\}$.

Leaves labeled with \top (\perp) represent the constant BF which evaluates to 1 (0) for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{B}^r$. A leaf labeled with $x \in V$ is interpreted as the assignment x = 1, i.e. it represents the BF which evaluates to 1 iff x = 1. The BF represented by a \triangle -node is the one that evaluates to 1, iff the BFs of all its children evaluate to 1. Similarly, a \bigtriangledown -node represents the BF that evaluates to 1, iff the BF of at least one child evaluates to 1. Finally, a \diamond -node represents the complementary BF of its child, i.e. the one that evaluates to 1, iff the BF of its child evaluates to 0. The BF of an arbitrary $\varphi \in \text{PDAG}$ will be denoted by f_{φ} and its satisfying set by S_{φ} . Two PDAGs $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PDAG}$ are equivalent, $\varphi \equiv \psi$, iff $f_{\varphi} = f_{\psi}$.

Our convention is to denote PDAGs by lower-case Greek letters such as φ , ψ , or the like. The set of variables included in $\varphi \in PDAG$ is denoted by $vars(\varphi) \subseteq V$. The number of edges of φ is called its *size* and denoted by $|\varphi|$. PDAGs may satisfy various properties [11, 18], but in the context of this paper, only three of them are relevant:

- Decomposability: the sets of variables of the children of each \triangle -node α in φ are pairwise disjoint (i.e. if β_1, \ldots, β_l are the children of α , then $vars(\beta_i) \cap vars(\beta_j) = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$);
- Determinism: the children of each ∇ -node α in φ are pairwise logically contradictory (i.e. if β_1, \ldots, β_l are the children of α , then $\beta_i \wedge \beta_j \equiv \bot$ for all $i \neq j$);
- Simple-negation: the child of each \diamond -node in φ is a leaf.

A decomposable and <u>d</u>eterministic PDAG is called cd-PDAG, and cd-PDAG refers to the corresponding language, a sub-language of PDAG. The example shown in Fig. 1 is a cd-PDAG.

Darwiche's family of NNF (= n-PDAG) languages are sub-languages of PDAG satisfying simplenegation, i.e. DNNF (= cn-PDAG) is the sub-language of NNF satisfying decomposability and d-DNNF (= cdn-PDAG) is the sub-language of DNNF satisfying determinism [11]. Other sub-languages are obtained from considering further properties, e.g. OBDD (ordered binary decision diagrams) is the sub-language of d-DNNF satisfying *decision*, *read-once*, and *ordering*, and sd-DNNF is the sublanguage of d-DNNF satisfying *smoothness*.¹ The latter is used in [8] as target compilation language for Bayesian networks. For a more comprehensive overview and a detailed discussion we refer to [11, 18].

2.2 Succinctness, Queries, and Transformations

A language L_1 is equally or more succinct than another language L_2 , $L_1 \leq L_2$, if any sentence $\alpha_2 \in L_2$ has an equivalent sentence $\alpha_1 \in L_1$ whose size is polynomial in the size of α_2 . A language

¹Smoothness means that $vars(\beta_i) = vars(\beta_j)$ holds for each pair of children (β_i, β_j) of each ∇ -node in φ .

 L_1 is *strictly* more succinct than another language L_2 , $L_1 \prec L_2$, iff $L_1 \preceq L_2$ and $L_2 \not\preceq L_1$. With respect to the above-mentioned languages, we have the following proven relationships [18]:

$$PDAG \prec \left\{ egin{array}{c} DNNF & \prec \\ cd-PDAG & \preceq \end{array}
ight\} d-DNNF \prec OBDD.$$

It is still unknown whether cd-PDAG is strictly more succinct than d-DNNF or not.

Queries are operations that return information about a BF without changing its PDAG representation. The most important queries are consistency (CO) or satisfiability (SAT), validity (VA), clause entailment (CE), term implication (IM), sentential entailment (SE), equivalence (EQ), model counting (CT), probabilistic equivalence (PEQ), and probability computation (PR).

Finally, a *transformation* is an operation that returns a PDAG representing a modified BF. The new PDAG is supposed to satisfy the same properties as the language in use. The most important transformations are (*term*) conditioning (TC), forgetting (FO), singleton forgetting (SFO), general/binary conjunction (AND/AND_2), general/binary disjunction (OR/OR_2), and negation (NOT).

If a language supports a query or transformation in polynomial time with respect to the size of the involved PDAGs, we say that it *supports* this query or transformation. Table 1 shows the supported queries and transformations of the considered languages [11, 18].

	CO/CE	VA/IM	CT/PR/PEQ	EQ	SE	TC	FO	SFO	AND	AND_2	OR	OR_2	NOT
PDAG	0	0	0	0	0		0			\checkmark			
DNNF	\checkmark	0	0	0	0				0	0			0
cd-PDAG	\checkmark			?	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
d-DNNF	\checkmark			?	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	?
OBDD	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		0		•		•	0	•	0	

Table 1: Sub-languages of the PDAG language and their supported queries and transformations. $\sqrt{\text{means "supports"}}$, • means "does not support", • means "does not support unless P = NP", and ? means "unknown".

2.3 Deterministic Variables

It is interesting to see in Table 1 that forgetting is supported by DNNF but not by d-DNNF or cd-PDAG. This is a consequence of the fact that forgetting does not preserve determinism in general. Let us now have a look at the particular case of variables which preserve determinism while being forgotten.

Definition 1. For $\varphi \in \text{PDAG}$, the variable $x \in V$ is called *deterministic* w.r.t. φ , denoted by $x \mid\mid \varphi$, iff $\varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot$.

The process of forgetting deterministic variables will be discussed in the next subsection. Before, let's have a look at some basic properties of deterministic variables.

Theorem 1. $x || \varphi$ implies $x || \psi$ for all $\psi \models \varphi$.

Theorem 2. $x \notin vars(\varphi)$ implies $x || x \leftrightarrow \varphi$.

The proofs of these theorems are included in the appendix. An immediate consequence is the following corollary, which will be useful to prove one of the main theorems of Section 3.

Corollary 1. $x \notin vars(\varphi)$ implies $x \parallel (x \leftrightarrow \varphi) \land \psi$.

For the forgetting of more than one variable, it is useful to generalize the definition of a single deterministic variable to sets of deterministic variables.

Definition 2. For $\varphi \in \text{PDAG}$, the set of variables $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\} \subseteq V$ is called *deterministic* w.r.t φ , denoted by $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\} || \varphi$ or simply $x_1, \ldots, x_n || \varphi$, iff $\varphi |\mathbf{x} \land \varphi | \mathbf{x}' \equiv \bot$ for all instantiations $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}'$ of the variables x_1, \ldots, x_n .

Note that $x, y \parallel \varphi$ implies $x \parallel \varphi$ and $y \parallel \varphi$, while the converse is not always true.

2.4 Deterministic Forgetting

Let $W \subseteq V$ be a subset of variables, $x \in V$ a single variable, and φ an arbitrary PDAG. Forgetting the variables W from φ generates a new PDAG φ^{-W} , in which the variables from W are no longer included, and such that its satisfying set $S_{\varphi^{-W}}$ is the projection of S_{φ} to the restricted set of variables $V \setminus W$. In the literature, forgetting was originally called *elimination of middle terms* [1], but it is also common to call it *projection, variable elimination*, or *marginalization* [16]. There is also a one-to-one analogy to the elimination of existential quantifiers in *quantified Boolean formulas* [12], as shown below.

Singleton forgetting is forgetting with $W = \{x\}$. A general and simple way to realize singleton forgetting is by constructing a PDAG of the form

$$\varphi^{-x} = \varphi | x \vee \varphi | \neg x.$$

Note that φ^{-x} is logically equivalent to the quantified Boolean formula $(\exists x)\varphi$. It is easy to see that singleton forgetting preserves the properties of simple-negation and decomposability (if present), while determinism is not preserved (the two children of the new ∇ -node are not necessarily logically contradictory). This is the reason why singleton forgetting is only supported by PDAG and DNNF, but not by cd-PDAG or d-DNNF (see Table 1).

Forgetting multiple variable is usually realized as a sequence of singleton forgetting. In general, this may result in an exponential blow-up of the PDAG size, but the decomposability of DNNF allows to keep this blow-up under control. This is the reason why DNNF is the only language to support forgetting in general. For the details of a corresponding algorithm, we refer to [6].

Now let's turn our attention to the special case of forgetting deterministic variables. One way to look at it is to define two additional transformations called *deterministic forgetting* (FO_d) and *deterministic singleton forgetting* (SFO_d) . They correspond to FO and SFO, respectively, but the involved variables have to be deterministic.

For $x \mid \mid \varphi$, the two children of the new ∇ -node of $\varphi \mid x \lor \varphi \mid \neg x$ are logically contradictory by definition. In other words, forgetting deterministic variables preserves determinism. This enables us to adopt Darwiche's DNNF forgetting algorithm from [6] one-to-one to the case of deterministic forgetting in the language d-DNNF. As a consequence, SFO_d and FO_d are both supported by d-DNNF, as stated in the following theorem.

Theorem 3.

- a) PDAG supports SFO_d , but it does not support FO_d unless P = NP.
- b) DNNF and d-DNNF support FO_d and SFO_d .
- c) cd-PDAG and OBDD support SFO_d.

The proof is included in the appendix. Whether cd-PDAG and OBDD support FO_d is an open question.

3 Compiling Bayesian Networks

The goal of this section is to show that the probability distribution induced by a Bayesian network can be represented by a CNF (1st subsection) and that the d-DNNF compilation of this CNF can be used to efficiently compute arbitrary posterior probabilities (2nd subsection). The proposed CNF representation is similar but not equivalent to the one proposed by Darwiche in [8] (see Section 4).

A Bayesian network (BN) is a compact graphical model of a complex probability distribution over a set of variables $N = \{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$ [17]. It consists of two parts: a DAG representing the direct influences among the variables, and a set of conditional probability tables (CPT) quantifying the strengths of these influences. The whole BN represents the exponentially sized *joint probability distribution* over its variables in a compact manner by

$$P(X_1,\ldots,X_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i | parents(X_i)),$$

where $parents(X_i)$ denotes the parents of node X_i in the DAG. Fig. 2 depicts a small BN with three Boolean variables X, Y, and Z. In this paper, we will restrict our discussion to Boolean variables. A Boolean variable X allows us to write x for the event X=true and \bar{x} or $\neg x$ for the event X=false.



Figure 2: Example of a Bayesian network.

3.1 Logical Representation

Consider a variable $X \in N$ with $parents(X) = \{Y_1, \ldots, Y_n\}$ and the corresponding CPT. Since X has n parents, the CPT will have 2^n entries. For each CPT entry $P(x|\mathbf{y})$, a proposition $\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}$ is introduced, where \mathbf{y} is the corresponding instantiation of parents(X). Assuming that the propositions $\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}$ represent probabilistically independent events, we define their respective marginal probabilities by $P(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}) = P(x|\mathbf{y})$.

To see how this logical representation of the BN works, take a closer look at one particular instantiation \mathbf{y} of parents(X). The idea is that if \mathbf{y} happens to be the true state of parents(X), then $\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}$ (resp. $\neg \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}$) logically implies x (resp. $\neg x$). For $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \ldots, y_n)$, this logical relationship between the propositions x, y_1 to y_n , and $\theta_{x|y_1,\ldots,y_n}$ is expressed by the first two implications in the following logical expression. By taking the conjunction of all such implications over all instantiations \mathbf{y} , we obtain a logical representation ψ_X of the node X with its relationship to its

parents:

$$\psi_X = \bigwedge \begin{cases} y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge y_n \wedge \theta_{x|y_1,\dots,y_n} \to x\\ y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge y_n \wedge \neg \theta_{x|y_1,\dots,y_n} \to \neg x\\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots\\ \neg y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \neg y_n \wedge \theta_{x|\bar{y}_1,\dots,\bar{y}_n} \to x\\ \neg y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \neg y_n \wedge \neg \theta_{x|\bar{y}_1,\dots,\bar{y}_n} \to \neg x \end{cases}$$

A logical representation ψ_N of the whole BN is the conjunction

$$\psi_N = \bigwedge_{X \in N} \psi_X$$

over all network variables $X \in N$. This sentence includes two types of propositions, the ones linked to the CPT entries and the ones linked to the network variables. The respective sets of propositions are denoted by Θ and Δ , respectively.² Note that ψ_X and therewith ψ_N is a CNF, as each of its implications can be written as a clause. For the BN of Fig. 2, we get

The first block corresponds to ψ_X , the second block to ψ_Y , and the third block to ψ_Z . The two sets of propositional variables are $\Delta = \{x, y, z\}$ and $\Theta = \{\theta_x, \theta_{y|x}, \theta_{y|\bar{x}}, \theta_{z|x,\bar{y}}, \theta_{z|\bar{x},\bar{y}}, \theta_{z$

3.2 Computing Posterior Probabilities

The goal of a BN is the computation of the posterior probability $P(\mathbf{q}|\mathbf{e}) = P(\mathbf{q} \wedge \mathbf{e})/P(\mathbf{e})$ of a query event $\mathbf{q} = q_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge q_r$ given the observed evidence $\mathbf{e} = e_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge e_s$. As mentioned in Section 1, it is sufficient to look at the simpler problem of computing prior probabilities $P(\mathbf{x})$ of arbitrary conjunctions of literals \mathbf{x} . The following theorem states that the essential step to solve this problem is to forget the propositions Δ from ψ_N (or any equivalent form of it) conditioned on \mathbf{x} .

Theorem 4. $P(\mathbf{x}) = P([\psi_N | \mathbf{x}]^{-\Delta}).$

²The representation of a Bayesian network by a logical sentence ψ_N over two sets of variables Θ and Δ , together with the given marginal probabilities for the variables in Θ and the corresponding independence assumptions, puts this approach in the broader context of *probabilistic argumentation* [14, 15]. This is a theory of formal reasoning which aims at unifying the classical fields of logical and probabilistic reasoning. The principal idea is to evaluate the credibility of a hypothesis by non-additive *probabilities of provability* (or *degrees of support*). This is a natural extension of the classical concepts of probability (in probability theory) and provability (in logic) [14]. The non-additivity of this measure is an important characteristic to distinguish properly between uncertainty and ignorance, but the particularity of the model in this paper always causes the resulting probabilities of provability to degenerate into ordinary (additive) probabilities. The embedding into the theory of probabilistic argumentation has no practical significance for the method and goals of this paper, but it allows inference in Bayesian network to be seen from a totally new perspective. We expect this perspective to be useful as a starting point to study inference in Bayesian networks with missing parameters.

This guarantees that the computed values are correct. To ensure that this computation requires only polynomial time, we need to compile ψ_N into an appropriate language, one that simultaneously supports TC, FO, and PR. The following theorem allows us to replace FO, not supported by d-DNNF, by FO_d, supported by d-DNNF.

Theorem 5. $\Delta \parallel \psi_N$.

As a consequence of this simple theorem, we arrive at the main message of this paper, namely that d-DNNF is the most suitable target compilation language for Bayesian networks, since it supports TC, FO_d, and PR, and thus allows to compute posterior probabilities in polynomial time. For the compilation of the CNF ψ_N into a d-DNNF, we refer to the state-of-the-art CNF to d-DNNF compilers [7, 10]. Another option is to use any CNF to OBDD compiler, and to regard the result as a d-DNNF.

4 Comparison with Darwiche's Approach

Darwiche proposed a similar logical compilation for Bayesian networks [8, 3]. His approach focusses on the encoding the *multi-linear function* (or *network polynomial*) of a Bayesian network, rather than the Bayesian network itself. The resulting CNF is then compiled into a smooth d-DNNF, which defines a corresponding arithmetic circuit. The inference is then performed in time linear in the size of this circuit. Before the two methods are compared, Darwiche's encoding will be recapitulated shortly. We will use DA to refer to Darwiche's approach and WH to refer to the approach introduced in this paper.

For each network variable $X \in N$ with values $\{x_1, \ldots, x_k\}$ and $parents(X) = \{Y_1, \ldots, Y_n\}$, DA defines an *indicator variable* λ_{x_i} for each value $x_i, 1 \leq i \leq k$. In addition, a *parameter variable* $\theta_{x_i|\mathbf{y}}$ is generated for each CPT entry $P(x_i|\mathbf{y})$ of X. Let Y denote the set of all instantiations $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \ldots, y_n)$ of *parents*(X). The CNF representation for X and its CPT consists of three distinct sets of clauses [3]:

The CNF representation ψ_N of the entire Bayesian network is the conjunction of all indicator, IP, and PI clauses. This CNF is then compiled into a smooth d-DNNF, which finally leads to an arithmetic circuit to perform the inference. For more details on this we refer to [8, 3].

$$P(a) = P(\theta_a)$$

$$P(\neg a) = 1 - P(a) = P(\theta_{\bar{a}})$$

$$P(\neg b|a) = P(\theta_{b|a})$$

$$P(\neg b|a) = 1 - P(\theta_{b|a}) = P(\theta_{\bar{b}|a})$$

$$P(b|\bar{a}) = P(\theta_{b|\bar{a}})$$

$$P(\neg b|\bar{a}) = 1 - P(\theta_{b|\bar{a}}) = P(\theta_{\bar{b}|\bar{a}})$$

Figure 3: A very small Bayesian network.

To reveal the difference between the two approaches, consider the BN of Fig. 3 and the resulting satisfying sets of the respective encodings. DA comes out with ten variables and the following four models:

λ_a	$\lambda_{ar{a}}$	λ_b	$\lambda_{ar{b}}$	θ_a	$ heta_{ar{a}}$	$\theta_{b a}$	$ heta_{ar{b} a}$	$\theta_{b \bar{a}}$	$ heta_{ar{b} ar{a}}$	MLF term
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	$\lambda_a \lambda_b \theta_a \theta_{b a}$
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	$\lambda_a \lambda_{ar{b}} heta_a heta_{ar{b} a}$
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	$\lambda_{ar{a}}\lambda_b heta_{ar{a}} heta_{b ar{a}}$
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	$\lambda_{ar{a}}\lambda_{ar{b}} heta_{ar{a}} heta_{ar{b} ar{a}}$

Note that each model in the satisfying set, by replacing each 1 with the corresponding variable and each 0 with 1, represents exactly one term of the multi-linear function $f = \lambda_a \lambda_b \theta_a \theta_{b|a} + \lambda_a \lambda_{\bar{b}} \theta_a \theta_{\bar{b}|a} + \lambda_{\bar{a}} \lambda_b \theta_{\bar{a}} \theta_{b|\bar{a}} + \lambda_{\bar{a}} \lambda_{\bar{b}} \theta_{\bar{a}} \theta_{\bar{b}|\bar{a}} + \lambda_{\bar{a}} \lambda_b \theta_{\bar{a}} \theta_{b|\bar{a}} + \lambda_{\bar{a}} \lambda_{\bar{b}} \theta_{\bar{a}} \theta_{\bar{b}|\bar{a}}$. The connection between a Bayesian network and its MLF is extensively discussed in [9].

In contrast to DA, WH represents the BN of Fig.3 by a CNF over five variables and with the following eight models:

a	b	θ_a	$\theta_{b a}$	$\theta_{b \bar{a}}$		λ_a	$\lambda_{\bar{a}}$	λ_b	$\lambda_{ar{b}}$	θ_a	$\theta_{\bar{a}}$	$\theta_{b a}$	$\theta_{\bar{b} a}$	$\theta_{b \bar{a}}$	$ heta_{ar{b} ar{a}}$
1	1	1	1	0		1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1		1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0		1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	1	\Leftrightarrow	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	1		0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	1		0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	1	0		0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1

The table on the right hand side is obtained from the one on the left hand side by substituting $\lambda_a \Leftrightarrow a, \lambda_{\bar{a}} \Leftrightarrow \neg a, \lambda_b \Leftrightarrow b, \lambda_{\bar{b}} \Leftrightarrow \neg b, \theta_{\bar{a}} \Leftrightarrow \neg \theta_a, \theta_{\bar{b}|a} \Leftrightarrow \neg \theta_{b|a}$, and $\theta_{\bar{b}|\bar{a}} \Leftrightarrow \neg \theta_{b|\bar{a}}$. This shows that that the encodings in DA and WH are in fact different. The key difference comes from the PI clauses in DA, which are not included in WH. On the other hand, there is an analogy between the clauses in WH and the IP clause in DA:

$$y_{1} \wedge \dots \wedge y_{n} \wedge \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} \to x \qquad \qquad y_{1} \wedge \dots \wedge y_{n} \wedge \neg \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} \to \neg x$$

$$\equiv y_{1} \wedge \dots \wedge y_{n} \wedge \neg x \to \neg \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} \qquad \qquad \equiv y_{1} \wedge \dots \wedge y_{n} \wedge x \to \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \lambda_{y_{1}} \wedge \dots \wedge \lambda_{y_{n}} \wedge \lambda_{\bar{x}} \to \theta_{\bar{x}|\mathbf{y}}, \qquad \qquad \Leftrightarrow \lambda_{y_{1}} \wedge \dots \wedge \lambda_{y_{n}} \wedge \lambda_{x} \to \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}.$$

Another important difference is the fact that WH does not impose the d-DNNF to be smooth, and WH gets along with less variables. All this is reflected in the sizes of the CNFs and, more importantly, in the sizes of the resulting d-DNNFs.³ Table 2 lists the number of variables and clauses of the CNFs and the number of nodes and edges of the resulting d-DNNFs for the BNs of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

³One could argue that these differences result from the generality of Darwiche's multivariate approach, and claim that they are likely to vanish in the Boolean case by substituting all appearances of λ_{x_1} and λ_{x_2} by x and $\neg x$, respectively, and all appearances of $\theta_{x_1|y}$ and $\theta_{x_2|y}$ by $\theta_{x|y}$ and $\neg \theta_{x|y}$, respectively, but this makes Darwiche's encoding logically contradictory.

	E	Example of	f Fig. 2		Example of Fig. 3						
	#variables	#variables #clauses #nodes #edges		#variables	#clauses	#nodes	#edges				
WH	10	14	47	54	5	6	21	22			
DA	20	54	67	102	10	20	31	38			

Table 2: Number of variables, clauses, nodes, and edges for WH and DA.

5 Conclusion

The approach proposed in this paper defines a new logical inference method for Bayesian networks with Boolean variables. We expect its contribution to be theoretically and practically significant. On the theoretical side, based on an extended knowledge compilation map, the paper provides a precise explanation of why d-DNNFs are apparently the most suitable logical representations for Bayesian networks. This is mainly a consequence of the fact that some of the involved variables are deterministic. The paper also demonstrates how to reduce the problem of logical inference in Bayesian networks to three basic logical operations. Compared to Darwiche's differential approach, this view fits much better into the picture of the knowledge compilation perspective, as the reduction to these essential elements no longer requires us to talk about network polynomials, multi-linear functions, partial derivatives, arithmetic circuits, or smoothness. In this sense, we also see our paper as an attempt to clarify the theoretical mechanisms and connections behind this kind of inference algorithms and as a good example to demonstrate the usefulness of the knowledge compilation map.

On the practical side, the paper provides precise step-by-step instructions to implement a new encoding and inference method for Bayesian networks in terms of a few simple operations for d-DNNFs. Compared to Darwiche's differential approach, this will lead to more transparent implementations. The efficiency of such an implementation has not yet been empirically verified on a broader scale, but significant improvements are already observable in very small examples. Finally, with respect to possible applications other than Bayesian networks, other situations with deterministic variables may be detected, for which forgetting becomes tractable in the case of d-DNNFs.

Future work will focus on implementing this new approach, testing its efficiency, and extending it to Bayesian networks with multinomial variables and/or missing parameters.

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Appendix: Proofs

Proof of Theorem 1. $\psi \models \varphi$ implies $\psi | x \models \varphi | x$ and $\psi | \neg x \models \varphi | \neg x$, and $x || \varphi$ is equivalent to $\varphi | x \land \varphi | \neg x \equiv \bot$. This implies $\psi | x \land \psi | \neg x \equiv \bot$, from which $x || \psi$ follows.

Proof of Theorem 2. Holds since $(x \leftrightarrow \varphi) | x \land (x \leftrightarrow \varphi) | \neg x \equiv \varphi \land \neg \varphi \equiv \bot$.

Proof of Corollary 1. Follows from

$$\begin{aligned} ((x \leftrightarrow \varphi) \land \psi) | x &\equiv \varphi \land \psi | x \text{ and } ((x \leftrightarrow \varphi) \land \psi) | \neg x \equiv \neg \varphi \land \psi | \neg x \\ &\Rightarrow ((x \leftrightarrow \varphi) \land \psi) | x \land ((x \leftrightarrow \varphi) \land \psi) | \neg x \equiv \bot. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1. For $\varphi \lor \psi \in d$ -DNNF with $x \mid \mid \varphi \lor \psi$, we have

(a) $x \parallel \varphi$, (b) $x \parallel \psi$, (c) $\varphi^{-\{x\}} \land \psi^{-\{x\}} \equiv \bot$, i.e. $\varphi^{-\{x\}} \lor \psi^{-\{x\}} \in d$ -DNNF.

Proof. The proof of (a) and (b)goes as follows:

$$\begin{split} x \mid\mid \varphi \lor \psi &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \lor \psi) \mid x \land (\varphi \lor \psi) \mid \neg x \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \mid x \lor \psi \mid x) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x \lor \psi \mid \neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x) \lor (\varphi \mid x \land \psi \mid \neg x) \lor (\psi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x) \lor (\psi \mid x \land \psi \mid \neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot, \ \psi \mid x \land \psi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot \Rightarrow x \mid \mid \varphi, \ x \mid \mid \psi \quad (a), \ (b) \checkmark \\ \varphi \mid x \land \psi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot, \ \psi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot \quad (I) \end{cases} \end{split}$$

Note that $\varphi \wedge \psi \equiv \bot$ implies $(\varphi \wedge \psi)|x \equiv \bot$ and $(\varphi \wedge \psi)|\neg x \equiv \bot$ (II). Finally, from (I) and (II) follows (c):

$$\begin{split} \varphi^{-\{x\}} \wedge \psi^{-\{x\}} &\equiv \bot \Leftrightarrow (\varphi|x \lor \varphi|\neg x) \land (\psi|x \lor \psi|\neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi|x \land \psi|x) \lor (\varphi|x \land \psi|\neg x) \lor (\varphi|\neg x \land \psi|x) \lor (\varphi|\neg x \land \psi|\neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \land \psi)|x \lor (\varphi|x \land \psi|\neg x) \lor (\varphi|\neg x \land \psi|x) \lor (\varphi \land \psi)|\neg x \equiv \bot. \end{split}$$

Lemma 2. For $\varphi \land \psi \in d$ -DNNF with $x \mid \varphi \land \psi, x \in vars(\varphi)$, and $\psi \not\equiv \bot$, we have

(a) $vars(\varphi^{-\{x\}}) \cap vars(\psi) = \emptyset$, (b) $x \parallel \varphi$.

Proof. (a) follows from $vars(\varphi^{-\{x\}}) \subseteq vars(\varphi) \setminus \{x\}$. The proof of (b) goes as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x \mid\mid \varphi \land \psi &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \land \psi) \mid x \land (\varphi \land \psi) \mid \neg x \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \mid x \land \psi \mid x) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x \land \psi \mid \neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x) \land (\psi \mid x \land \psi \mid \neg x) \equiv \bot \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x) \land \psi \equiv \bot \\ &\Rightarrow \varphi \mid x \land \varphi \mid \neg x \equiv \bot \Leftrightarrow x \mid\mid \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Theorem 3. We have:

- a) PDAG supports SFO_d since it supports SFO. If PDAG supports FO_d it would also support FO. Since FO is not supported unless P = NP, FO_d is not supported unless P = NP.
- b) DNNF supports FO_d and SFO_d since it supports FO and SFO. According to Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, both determinism and decomposability are preserved by deterministic forgetting. Therefore, d-DNNF can use the algorithm of forgetting within DNNF as presented in [6].

c) OBDD supports SFO_d since it supports SFO. cd-PDAG supports SFO_d since forgetting a deterministic variable x of φ can be done by $\varphi | x \vee \varphi | \neg x$.

In the following \sim denotes the compatibility relationship among variable instantiations. Hence, $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathbf{y}$ means that the instantiations \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are compatible, i.e. they agree on every common variable. Furthermore, we use

$$lit(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}}) = \begin{cases} \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} & \text{if } x \sim \mathbf{y}, \\ \neg \theta_{x|\mathbf{y}} & \text{if } \neg x \sim \mathbf{y}. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 3. For an instantiation \mathbf{y} of all variables N of the BN, let \mathbf{y}_x be the instantiation \mathbf{y} restricted to the parents of X. This implies

$$\psi_N | \mathbf{y} \equiv \bigwedge_{x \in \Delta} lit(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}_x}).$$

Proof. Performing the conjunction of two sequent line in the logical representation ψ_X of a variable X leads to

$$\psi_X \equiv \bigwedge \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge & y_n \to (\theta_{x|y_1,\dots,y_n} \leftrightarrow x) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \neg y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \neg y_n \to (\theta_{x|\bar{y}_1,\dots,\bar{y}_n} \leftrightarrow x) \end{array} \right\},$$

i.e. $\psi_X | \mathbf{y} \equiv lit(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}_x})$. Finally, $\psi_N = \bigwedge_{X \in N} \psi_X$ implies $\psi_N | \mathbf{y} \equiv \bigwedge_{x \in \Delta} lit(\theta_{x|\mathbf{y}_x})$.

Lemma 4. If \mathbf{x} is an instantiation of some variables of the BN, then

$$[\psi_N | \mathbf{x}]^{-\Delta} \equiv \bigvee_{\mathbf{y} \sim \mathbf{x}} \psi_N | \mathbf{y},$$

where **y** is an instantiation of all variables of the BN, and \mathbf{y}_x is the projection of **y** to parents(X).

Proof. Let \mathbf{Y} be the set of all instantiations \mathbf{y} . This implies

$$\left[\psi_{N}|\mathbf{x}\right]^{-\Delta} \equiv \bigvee_{\mathbf{y}\in\mathbf{Y}} \left[\psi_{N}|\mathbf{x}\right]|\mathbf{y} \equiv \bigvee_{\mathbf{y}\sim\mathbf{x}} \psi_{N}|\mathbf{y}.$$

Proof of Theorem 4. Follows from Lemma 3 and Lemma 4.

Lemma 5. For $\varphi, \psi \in \mathsf{PDAG}$ and $x \notin vars(\psi)$, we have $(\varphi \land \psi)^{-\{x\}} \equiv \varphi^{-\{x\}} \land \psi$.

Proof. Holds since $\psi \equiv \psi | x \equiv \psi | \neg x$.

Lemma 6. For all $x \in \Delta$, x is a deterministic variable of ψ_X .

Proof. By transforming ψ_X one can show that

$$\psi_X \equiv \left[\bigvee \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge & y_n \wedge \theta_{x|y_1,\dots,y_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \neg y_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \neg y_n \wedge \theta_{x|\bar{y}_1,\dots,\bar{y}_n} \end{array} \right\} \right] \leftrightarrow x.$$

Thus, x is a deterministic variable of ψ_X according to Theorem 1.

Lemma 7. For $\varphi \in \text{PDAG}$ with $x \parallel \varphi$ and $y \parallel \varphi^{-\{x\}}$, we get $x, y \parallel \varphi, y \parallel \varphi$, and $x \parallel \varphi^{-\{y\}}$.

Proof. This lemma follows from

$$\begin{split} x \mid\mid \varphi \Rightarrow \begin{cases} (\varphi \mid x, y) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x, y) \equiv \bot, \\ (\varphi \mid x, \neg y) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x, \neg y) \equiv \bot, \end{cases} \\ y \mid\mid \varphi^{-\{x\}} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} (\varphi \mid x, y) \land (\varphi \mid x, \neg y) \equiv \bot, \\ (\varphi \mid x, y) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x, \neg y) \equiv \bot, \\ (\varphi \mid \neg x, y) \land (\varphi \mid x, \neg y) \equiv \bot, \\ (\varphi \mid \neg x, y) \land (\varphi \mid \neg x, \neg y) \equiv \bot. \end{cases} \end{split}$$

Proof of Theorem 5. Starting with a leaf X of the BN, Lemma 6 and Theorem 1 ensure that x is a deterministic w.r.t. ψ_N . Since X has no children, all ψ_Y , $Y \neq X$, remain unchanged according to Lemma 5. This is repeated for the remaining variables of the BN, but X will no longer count as a child. According to Lemma 7, the order of the nodes is only important for the simplicity of the proof.

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