

# Neural+Symbolic Learning

**A Probabilistic Journey**

Jaron Maene - DTAI Seminar - 7/5/2024

# Outline

1. What is “neural-symbolic”?  
=> Introduce the *probabilistic view* from first-principles
2. Contribution 1: embeddings & neural-symbolic
3. Contribution 2: complexity & gradients

# Part 1:

# What is neural-symbolic?

$$p(X)$$

$p(\text{Vehicle} = \text{ambulance} \mid \text{Image} =$




)

# Supervised Learning

$$p_{\theta}(Y | X)$$

Find  $\theta$  that maximises  $p_{\theta}(Y | X)$  over dataset

<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>
	ambulance
...	...

$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Vehicle} = \text{car}, \text{Lights} = \text{red})$



# Logical Reasoning

$$p_{\phi}(X = x) = \mathbb{1}(x \models \phi)$$

To keep it simple:  $\phi$  is propositional Boolean formula

$$\phi = (\text{cross} \leftrightarrow \text{ambulance} \vee (\text{car} \wedge \text{green\_lights}))$$

$$\wedge (\text{car} \leftrightarrow \neg \text{ambulance})$$

$$\wedge (\text{lights\_green} \leftrightarrow \neg \text{lights\_red})$$

$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{Image of a yellow and green ambulance}, \text{Lights} = \text{red}) = ?$

- Not just logic...
- Not just a neural network...



# Marginalise

$$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img}, \text{Lights} = \text{red}) =$$



$$p(\text{Cross}, \text{Vehicle} = \text{car} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img}, \text{Lights} = \text{red})$$
$$+ p(\text{Cross}, \text{Vehicle} = \text{ambulance} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img}, \text{Lights} = \text{red})$$

# Decompose

$$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{Image of ambulance}, \text{Lights} = \text{red}) =$$

$$p(V = \text{car} \mid I = \text{Image of ambulance}) \cdot p(C \mid V = \text{car}, L = \text{red}) \\ + p(V = \text{ambulance} \mid I = \text{Image of ambulance}) \cdot p(C \mid V = \text{ambulance}, L = \text{red})$$

# We re-invented DeepProbLog\*!

$$p(Y | X) = \sum_z p(Y | Z = z) \prod_{z_i} p(Z_i = z_i | X)$$

Logic

Neural networks

$z$  possible worlds

# Weighted Model Counting

$$p(Y \mid X) = \sum_{z: z \models Y} \prod_i p(Z_i = z_i \mid X)$$

- Linear combination of models.
- Generalisation of SAT solving.
- #P-hard in general, but decades of research have created strong solvers.

# Neural-Symbolic Learning

Find  $\theta$  such that

$$p_{\theta}(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Vehicle} = \text{}, \text{Lights} = \text{)} = 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  Weakly-supervised

$\Rightarrow$  Find “right” solution (c.f. reasoning shortcuts)

# Neural-Symbolic Learning

$$\nabla p(Y | X) = \sum_z p(Y | Z = z) \nabla p(Z = z | X)$$

**End-to-end differentiable!**

=> Parameter learning (vs. Structure Learning)

# Why would you do this?

1. **ML view:** bias-variance trade-off.  
=> Craft bias for your problem (c.f. probabilistic programming)  
=> Better performance / less data required
2. **Safety view:** get guarantees, more trustworthy.
3. **Causality view:** out-of-distribution generalisation.
4. **KR view:** many more possible questions you can ask.
5. **Interpretability view:** why did my model do this?
6. **Psychology view:** Compositionality, System 1 vs. System 2

# Part 2: Embeddings & Neural-Symbolic



$$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{Image of ambulance}, \text{Lights} = \text{orange}) = ?$$



$p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img1}, \text{Lights} = \text{orange}) =$



$+ p(\text{orange} = \text{red})p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img2}, \text{Lights} = \text{red})$



$+ p(\text{orange} = \text{green})p(\text{Cross} \mid \text{Image} = \text{img3}, \text{Lights} = \text{green})$

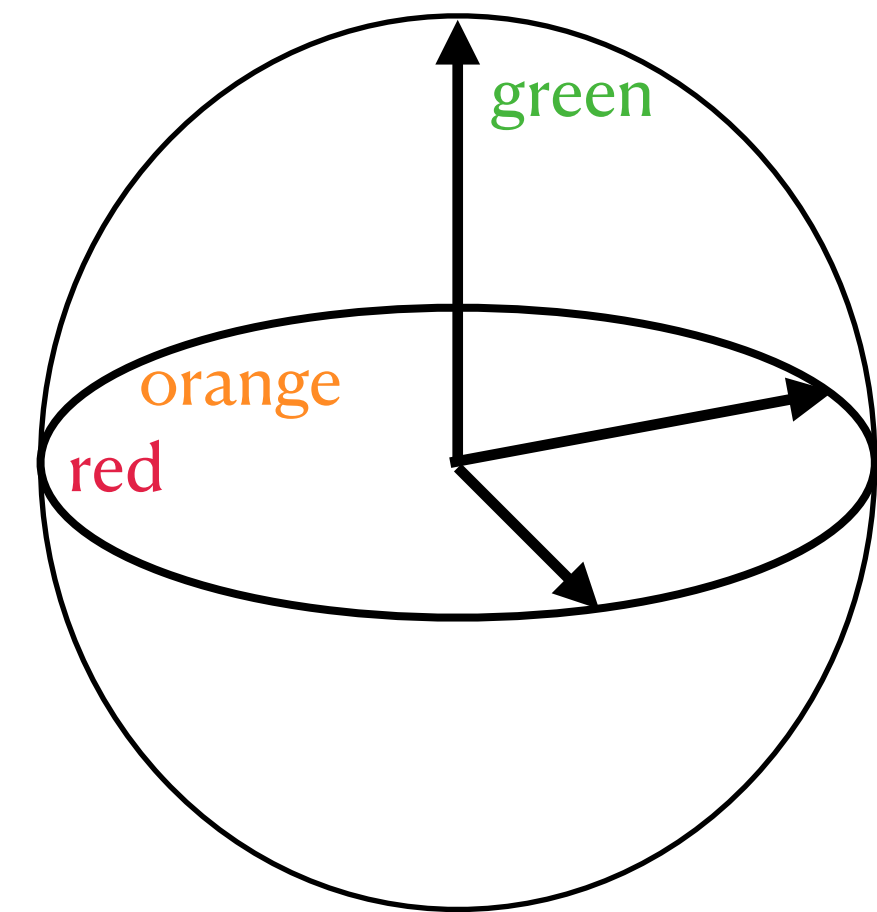


If you want a well-defined equality relation, you need a metric space.

In other words, probabilistic equality = **embeddings**

$$p(x = y) = e^{-d(e(x), e(y))}$$

1.  $p(x = x)$
2.  $p(x = y) = p(y = x)$
3.  $p(x = y) \geq p(x = z) \cdot p(z = y)$



# Soft-Unification

- Corresponds with Soft-Unification
- Corresponds with DeepProbLog:  
neural facts  $\Leftrightarrow$  embeddings.
- End-to-end differentiable learning of embeddings from proofs.
- Generalises knowledge graph embeddings

```
cross :- vehicle(car), light(green).  
light(orange).  
vehicle(car).  
query(cross).
```

light(orange) == light(green)

=> Unification: No

=> Soft-unification:  $p(\text{green} == \text{orange})$

# Part 3: Complexity & Gradients

# Reduction of $\nabla$ WMC to WMC

If you have a WMC  $p(\phi) = \sum_{I \models \phi} \prod_{x \in I} p(x)$ , then  $\frac{\partial p(\phi)}{\partial x} = p(\phi \mid x) - p(\phi \mid \neg x)$ .

*Proof:* Using linearity of WMC. (Theorem 3.1, Maene et al., 2024)

## Corollaries

1. Computing  $\nabla p(\phi)$  is #P-complete.
2.  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -approximating  $\nabla p(\phi)$  is NP-hard.

# Scalable gradients for NeSy

- Gradients can be approximate. (No-one uses exact gradients!)
- We do want unbiased and  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -approximate (i.e. high probability of being close to true gradient).
- Existing gradient estimators unbiased, or require exponential number of samples.

Score function estimator (aka REINFORCE): 
$$\frac{\partial p(\phi)}{\partial x} = \mathbb{E}_{I \sim p(\cdot)} \left[ \mathbb{1}(I \models \phi) \frac{\partial \log p(x)}{\partial x} \right]$$

=> Does become provably tractable for low-entropy distributions.

# Weighted Model Estimator (WeightME)

=> *Lot's of progress in approximate WMC solvers, can we leverage this for  $\nabla$  WMC?*

=> *Sample models instead of interpretations!*

$$\frac{\partial \log p(\phi)}{\partial x} = \mathbb{E}_{I \sim p(\cdot | \phi)} \left[ \frac{\partial \log p(x)}{\partial x} \mathbb{1}(I \models x) + \frac{\partial \log p(\neg x)}{\partial x} \mathbb{1}(I \models \neg x) \right]$$

=> Under mild assumptions,  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -approximation using constant number of samples.

=> Requires a logarithmic number of SAT calls.



# References

- J. Maene & L. De Raedt, “**Soft-Unification in Deep Probabilistic Logic**”, *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2023.
- J. Maene, V. Derkinderen & L. De Raedt, “**On the Hardness of Probabilistic Neurosymbolic Learning**”, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2024.

More general overview of Probabilistic NeSy:

- V. Derkinderen et al., “**Semirings for Probabilistic & Neuro-probabilistic Programming**”, *International Journal of Approximate Reasoning*, 2024.
- G. Marra et al., “**From Statistical Relational to Neurosymbolic AI**”, *Artificial Intelligence Journal*, 2024.