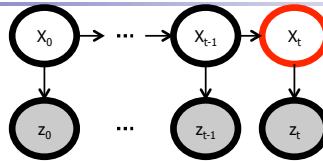# Maximum A Posteriori (MAP) Estimation

Pieter Abbeel
UC Berkeley EECS

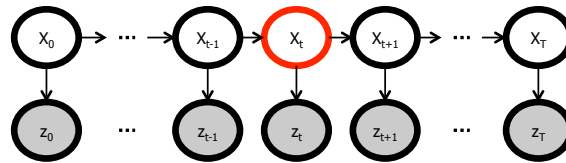# Overview

- **Filtering:**

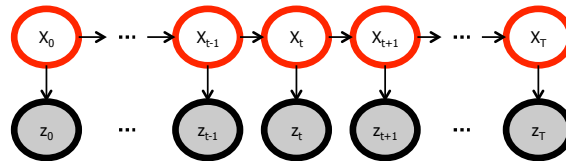$$P(x_t | z_{0:t})$$

- **Smoothing:**

$$P(x_t | z_{0:T})$$

- **MAP:**

$$\max_{x_{0:T}} P(x_{0:T} | z_{0:T})$$

MAP

$$\max_{x_0,x_1,x_2,x_3} P(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3 | z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3)$$

$$\propto \max_{x_0,x_1,x_2,x_3} P(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3)$$

$$= \max_{x_0,x_1,x_2,x_3} P(z_3|x_3)P(x_3|x_2)P(z_2|x_2)P(x_2|x_1)P(z_1|x_1)P(x_1|x_0)P(z_0|x_0)P(x_0)$$

$$= \max_{x_3} \left(P(z_3|x_3) \max_{x_2} \left(P(x_3|x_2)P(z_2|x_2) \max_{x_1} \left(P(x_2|x_1)P(z_1|x_1) \max_{x_0} \left(P(x_1|x_0) \underbrace{P(z_0|x_0)P(x_0)}_{m_0(x_0)} \right) \right) \right) \right)$$

$$\underbrace{\phantom{P(x_2|x_1)P(z_1|x_1) \max_{x_0} P(x_1|x_0)P(z_0|x_0)P(x_0)}}_{m_1(x_1)}$$

$$\underbrace{\phantom{P(x_3|x_2)P(z_2|x_2) \max_{x_1} P(x_2|x_1)P(z_1|x_1) \max_{x_0} P(x_1|x_0)P(z_0|x_0)P(x_0)}}_{m_2(x_2)}$$

$$\underbrace{\phantom{P(z_3|x_3) \max_{x_2} P(x_3|x_2)P(z_2|x_2) \max_{x_1}}}_{m_3(x_3)}$$

- **Generally:**

$$
\begin{aligned}
m_t(x_t) &= \max_{x_{0:t-1}} P(x_{0:t}, z_{0:t}) \\
&= \max_{x_{0:t-1}} P(x_t|x_{t-1})P(z_t|x_t)P(x_{0:t-1}, z_{0:t-1}) \\
&= P(z_t|x_t) \max_{x_{t-1}} P(x_t|x_{t-1}) \max_{x_{0:t-2}} P(x_{0:t-1}, z_{0:t-1}) \\
&= P(z_t|x_t) \max_{x_{t-1}} P(x_t|x_{t-1}) m_{t-1}(x_{t-1})
\end{aligned}
$$

MAP --- Complete Algorithm

1. Init: $m_0(x_0) = P(z_0|x_0)P(x_0)$

2. For all $t = 1, 2, \ldots, T-1$

    - For all x_t: $\quad m_t(x_t) = P(z_t|x_t) \max_{x_{t-1}} P(x_t|x_{t-1})m_{t-1}(x_{t-1})$
    - For all x_t: Store argmax in $\text{pointer}_{t \to t-1}(x_t)$

3. $\text{maximum} = \max_{x_T} m_T(x_T)$

4. $x_T^* = \arg\max_{x_T} m_T(x_T)$

5. For all $t = T, T-1, \ldots, 1$

    - $x_{t-1}^* = \text{pointer}_{t \to t-1}(x_t^*)$

- $O(T\, n^2)$

Kalman Filter (aka Linear Gaussian) setting

- Summations → integrals

- But: can't enumerate over all instantiations

- However, we can still find solution efficiently:

  - the joint conditional $P(x_{0:T} | z_{0:T})$ is a multivariate Gaussian

  - for a multivariate Gaussian the most likely instantiation equals the mean

  → we just need to find the mean of $P(x_{0:T} | z_{0:T})$
    - the marginal conditionals $P(x_t | z_{0:T})$ are Gaussians with mean equal to the mean of x_t under the joint conditional, so it suffices to find all marginal conditionals
    - We already know how to do so: marginal conditionals can be computed by running the Kalman smoother.

- Alternatively: solve convex optimization problem