



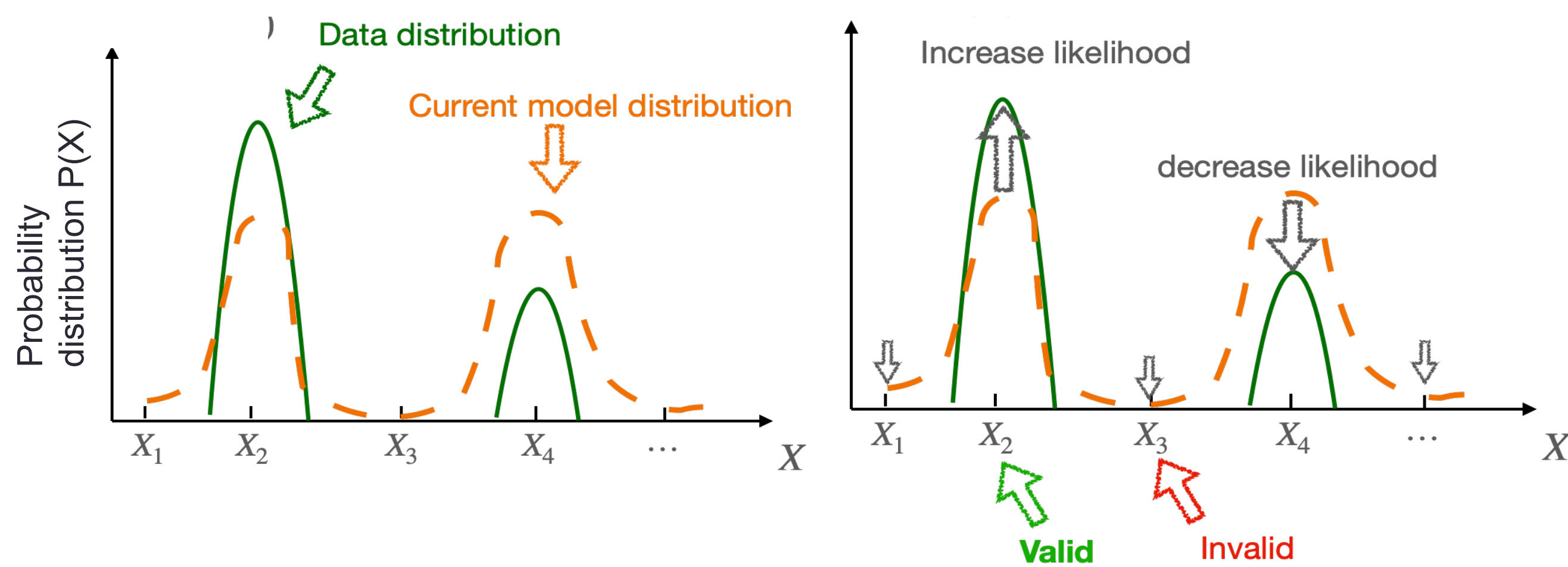
# Learning Markov Random Fields for Combinatorial Structures via Sampling through Lovász Local Lemma

Nan Jiang<sup>1\*</sup>, Yi Gu<sup>2\*</sup>, Yexiang Xue<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Purdue University, <sup>2</sup>Northwestern University

## Problem: Generative Modeling For Combinatorial Structures

- Learning generative models over combinatorial structures involve matching the model distribution with the data distribution.



- **GAP:** Existing works generates **invalid** structures, resulting in learning to separate **valid** and **invalid** structures, but **NOT** learning the structural difference between **valid** structures **inside** and **outside** the dataset.
- **Our contribution:** A **fully-differentiable constraint reasoning** layer based on **Lovász Local Lemma** that samples **valid** structures for learning.

## Background: Constrained Markov random fields (MRF)

- Discrete variables  $X = \{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , with  $X \in \{0,1\}^n$
- Constraints  $C = \{c_k\}_{k=1}^L$ .

The probability distribution for constrained Markov random fields is:

$$P_{\theta}(X = x | C) = \frac{\exp(\phi_{\theta}(x)) C(x)}{Z_C(\theta)}$$

- $C(x)$  is the indicator function that evaluates to 1 if all constraints are satisfied.
- $\phi_{\theta}(x) : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , is the potential function.
- $Z_C(\theta) = \sum_{x' \in X} \exp(\phi_{\theta}(x')) C(x')$ , is the normalizing constant.

**Learning task:** minimize the negative log-likelihood over a dataset  $D$ :

$$-\frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{x^k \sim D} \log P_{\theta}(X = x^k | C)$$

The **gradient** of the negative log-likelihood is:

$$-\mathbb{E}_{x \sim D} (\nabla \phi_{\theta}(x)) + \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{x} \sim P_{\theta}(x|C)} (\nabla \phi_{\theta}(\tilde{x})).$$

Sample from dataset  $D$

Sample from constrained MRF

**Our Contribution:** sample valid structures based on Lovász local lemma.

## Method: Sampling through Lovász Local Lemma

- Discrete variables  $X_1, X_2, X_3 \in \{0,1\}$ .

- Marginal distributions  $P(X_1), P(X_2), P(X_3), P(X_i = x_i) = \frac{\exp(\theta_i x_i)}{\sum_{x_i \in \{0,1\}} \exp(\theta_i x_i)}$ .

- Constraints  $C = (X_1 \vee X_2) \wedge (\neg X_1 \vee X_3)$ .

- normalizing constant  $Z_C(\theta) = \sum_{x' \in \{0,1\}^n} \exp(\phi_{\theta}(x')) C(x')$ .

**GOAL:** Sample valid assignments from  $P(X_1)P(X_2)P(X_3)$  subject to constraints  $C$ .

initialize $X_i \sim P(X_i)$	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_3$
Resample $X_1, X_3$ from $P(X_1), P(X_3)$	1	0	0
Resample $X_1, X_2$ from $P(X_1), P(X_2)$	0	0	1
All constraints are satisfied!	0	1	1

## Fully Differentiable Neural Network-based Implementation

Given constraints  $C = (X_1 \vee X_2) \wedge (\neg X_1 \vee X_3)$ , construct

$$w = \begin{bmatrix} [1,0,0] & [0,1,0] \\ [-1,0,0] & [0,0,1] \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

1. Initialize.  $x_i = \mathbf{1}[u_i \geq P(X_i)]$

2. Extract violated constraints.

$$Z = W \otimes x + b$$

$$S_j = 1 - \max_{1 \leq k \leq K} Z_{jk}$$

3. Variables to be resamples,

$$A_i = \mathbf{1}[\sum_{j=1}^L S_j V_{ji} \geq 1]$$

4. Resample variables

$$x = (1 - A) \times x + A \times \mathbf{1}[u_i \geq P(X_i)]$$

Fully differentiable implementation

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} X_1 = 0 \\ X_2 = 0, \\ X_3 = 1 \end{matrix}$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow c_1 \text{ is violated}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow X_1 \text{ and } X_2 \text{ will be resampled.}$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} X_1 = 0 \\ X_2 = 1, \\ X_3 = 1 \end{matrix}$$

## Theoretical Guarantees

**Condition 1 "Extreme Condition":** Constraints  $C$  is called "Extreme" if for constraints  $c_i, c_j \in C$ , 1) Either their domain variables do not intersect. 2) Or no variable assignment violates  $c_i, c_j$  sharing variables.

**Theorem (Probability distribution)** Given random variables  $X = \{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , constraints  $C = \{c_k\}_{k=1}^L$  that satisfy the extreme condition and the parameters of the constrained MRF in the single variable form  $\theta$ . Upon termination, Algorithm outputs an assignment  $x$  randomly drawn from the constrained MRF distribution:  $x \sim P_{\theta}(X = x | C)$

**Theorem (Time complexity)** Let  $q_{\emptyset}$  be a non-zero probability of all the constraints are satisfied. Let  $q_{c_j}$  denote the probability that only constraint  $c_j$  is broken and the rest all

hold. If  $q_{\emptyset} \geq 0$ , the total number of re-samples throughout is  $\frac{1}{q_{\emptyset}} \sum_{k=1}^L q_{c_k}$ .

## Experiment: Learn random K-SAT Solution with preference

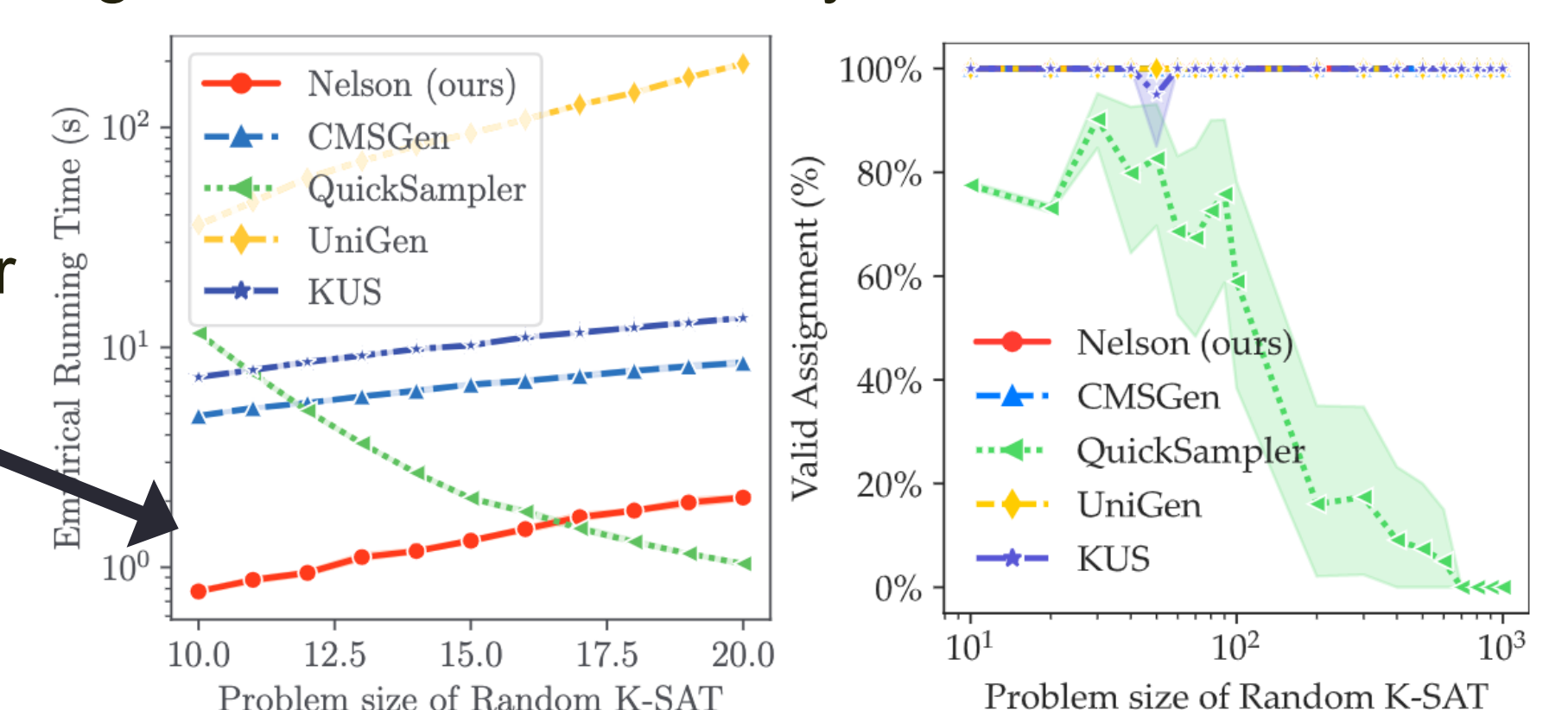
Our method is time efficient

Our method generates 100% valid structures

Problem size	(a) Training time per iteration (Mins) (↓)								
	NELSON	XOR	WALS	WeightGen	CMSGen	KUS	QuickSampler	Unigen	Gibbs
10	<b>0.13</b>	26.30	1.75	0.64	0.22	0.72	0.40	0.66	0.86
10	<b>0.15</b>	134.50	3.04	T.O.	0.26	0.90	0.30	2.12	1.72
30	<b>0.19</b>	1102.95	6.62	T.O.	0.28	2.24	0.32	4.72	2.77
40	<b>0.23</b>	T.O.	33.70	T.O.	0.31	19.77	0.39	9.38	3.93
50	<b>0.24</b>	T.O.	909.18	T.O.	0.33	1532.22	0.37	13.29	5.27
500	<b>5.99</b>	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	34.17	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	221.83
1000	<b>34.01</b>	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	177.39	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	854.59
(b) Validness of generated solutions (%) (↑)									
10 - 50	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	82.65	<b>100</b>	90.58
500	<b>100</b>	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	<b>100</b>	T.O.	7.42	<b>100</b>	54.27
1000	<b>100</b>	T.O.	T.O.	T.O.	<b>100</b>	T.O.	0.00	<b>100</b>	33.91
(c) Approximation error of $\nabla \log Z_C(\theta)$ (↓)									
10	<b>0.10</b>	0.21	0.12	3.58	3.96	4.08	3.93	4.16	0.69
12	<b>0.14</b>	0.19	0.16	5.58	5.50	5.49	5.55	5.48	0.75
14	<b>0.15</b>	0.25	0.19	T.O.	6.55	6.24	7.79	6.34	1.30
16	<b>0.16</b>	0.25	<b>0.15</b>	T.O.	9.08	9.05	9.35	9.03	1.67
18	<b>0.18</b>	0.30	0.23	T.O.	10.44	10.30	11.73	10.20	1.90

Our method estimates gradient more accurately

Our method scales better with respect to problem size.



## Code & Acknowledgement

This research was supported by NSF grants IIS-1850243, CCF-1918327.

Our code implementation →

