# Lecture 16 **Nobile Robotics - I** - Probability







# Probabilistic ROBOTICS

SEBASTIAN THRUN WOLFRAM BURGARD DIETER FOX



# Course logistics

- Quiz 8 will be posted tomorrow 3pm and will be due on 03/26 noon.
- Project 5 was posted on 03/05 and is due today 03/24.
- Project 6 will be posted today 03/24 and will be on 04/02.
- Group formation for P7 and Final Project this week.
  - How is that going?





# **Probabilistic Robotics**

# Key idea: Explicit representation of uncertainty

#### Perception = state estimation Action = utility optimization







(using the calculus of probability theory)



# **Discrete Random Variables**

- X denotes a random variable.
- X can take on a countable number of values in  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ .
- $P(X = x_i)$ , or  $P(x_i)$ , is the probability that the random variable X takes on value  $x_i$ .
- P(.) is called probability mass function.
- E.g. P(room) = < 0.7, 0.2, 0.08, 0.02 >





## **Joint and Conditional Probability** • P(X = x and Y = y) = P(x, y)

- P(x|y) is the probability of x given y  $P(x \mid y) = \frac{P(x, y)}{P(y)}$
- If X and Y are independent then P(x, y) = P(x)P(y)
- If X and Y are independent then  $P(x \mid y) = P(x)$



P(x, y) = P(x | y)P(y)



### Law of Total Probability, Marginals

#### **Discrete Case**

 $\sum P(x) = 1$ 

 ${\mathcal X}$ 

 $P(x) = \sum P(x, y)$ V

 $P(x) = \sum_{y} P(x | y)P(y)$ 



#### **Continuous Case**

$$\int p(x)dx = 1$$

$$p(x) = \int p(x, y) dy$$

 $p(x) = \int p(x | y)p(y)dy$ 





• P(+x, +y) ?

#### • P(+x) ?

#### • P(-y OR +x) ?

#### • Independent?





P(X, Y)

X	Y	Ρ
+X	+y	0.2
+X	-У	0.3
-X	+y	0.4
-X	-Y	0.1



# **Marginal Distributions**

P(X, Y)

X	Y	Ρ
+X	+y	0.2
+X	-Y	0.3
-X	+y	0.4
-X	-y	0.1

P(x) =





P(X)

$$=\sum_{y} P(x,y)$$

X	Ρ
+X	
-X	

 $P(y) = \sum P(x, y)$ x

Y	P
+y	
-Y	

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 







## **Conditional Probabilities**

P(X, Y)			
X	Y	Ρ	
+X	+y	0.2	
+X	-Y	0.3	
-X	+y	0.4	
-X	-y	0.1	



#### • P(+x | +y)?

#### • P(-x | +y)?

#### • P(-y | +x)?

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



# **Bayes Formula** $P(x, y) = P(x \mid y)P(y) = P(y \mid x)P(x)$

 $P(x | y) = \frac{P(y | x)P(x)}{P(y)} = \frac{\text{likelihood } \times \text{ prior}}{\text{evidence}}$ 

knowledge.





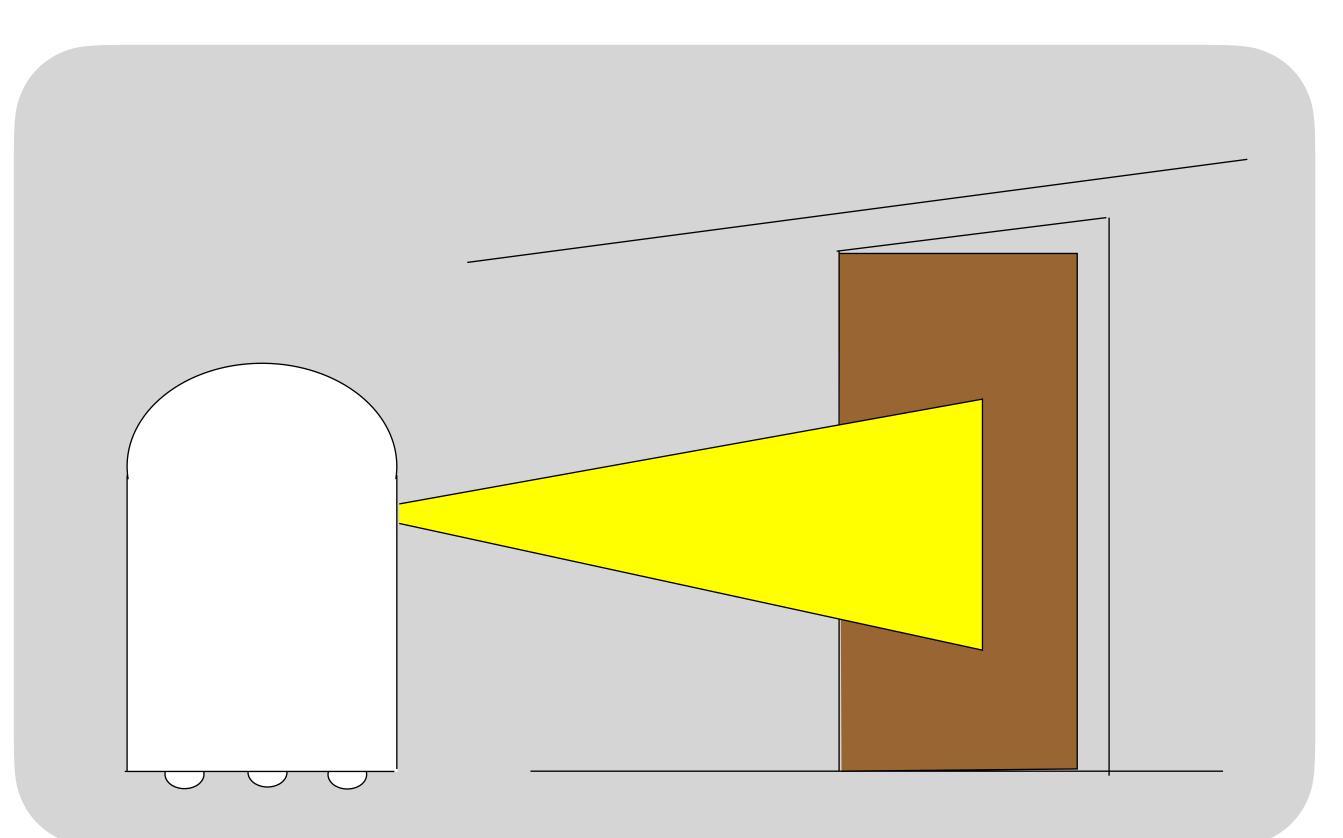


### Often causal knowledge is easier to obtain than diagnostic knowledge. Bayes rule allows us to use causal



## **Simple Example of State Estimation**

### • Suppose a robot obtains measurement z• What is P(open|z)?







**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



## Example

# P(z | open) = 0.6 $P(z | \neg open) = 0.3$ P(open) = 0.5 $P(\neg \text{open}) = 0.5$

#### P(open | z) =

# $P(\text{open}|z) = \frac{0.6 \times 0.5}{0.6 \times 0.5 + 0.3 \times 0.5} = \frac{2}{3} = 0.67$

• *z* raises the probability that the door is open.



**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



### Normalization



**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 

 $P(x \mid y) = \frac{P(y \mid x)P(x)}{P(y)} = \eta P(y \mid x)P(x)$  $\eta = P(y)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sum_{x'} P(y \mid x') P(x')}$ 



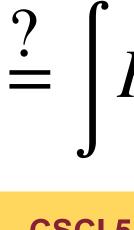
# Conditioning

Bayes

s rule and background knowledge:  

$$P(x \mid y, z) = \frac{P(y \mid x, z)P(x \mid z)}{P(y \mid z)}$$

 $P(x | y) \stackrel{?}{=} \int P(x | y, z) P(z) dz$ 





 $\stackrel{?}{=} \int P(x \mid y, z) P(z \mid y) dz$ 

 $P(x \mid y, z)P(y \mid z)dz$ 

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



# Conditioning





• Bayes rule and background knowledge:  $P(x \mid y, z) = \frac{P(y \mid x, z)P(x \mid z)}{P(y \mid z)}$ 

 $P(x \mid y) = \int P(x \mid y, z) P(z \mid y) dz$ 

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



# **Conditional Independence**

# $P(x, y \mid z) = P(x \mid z)P(y \mid z)$

# Equivalent to $P(x \mid z) = P(x \mid z, y)$ and $P(y \mid z) = P(y \mid z, x)$

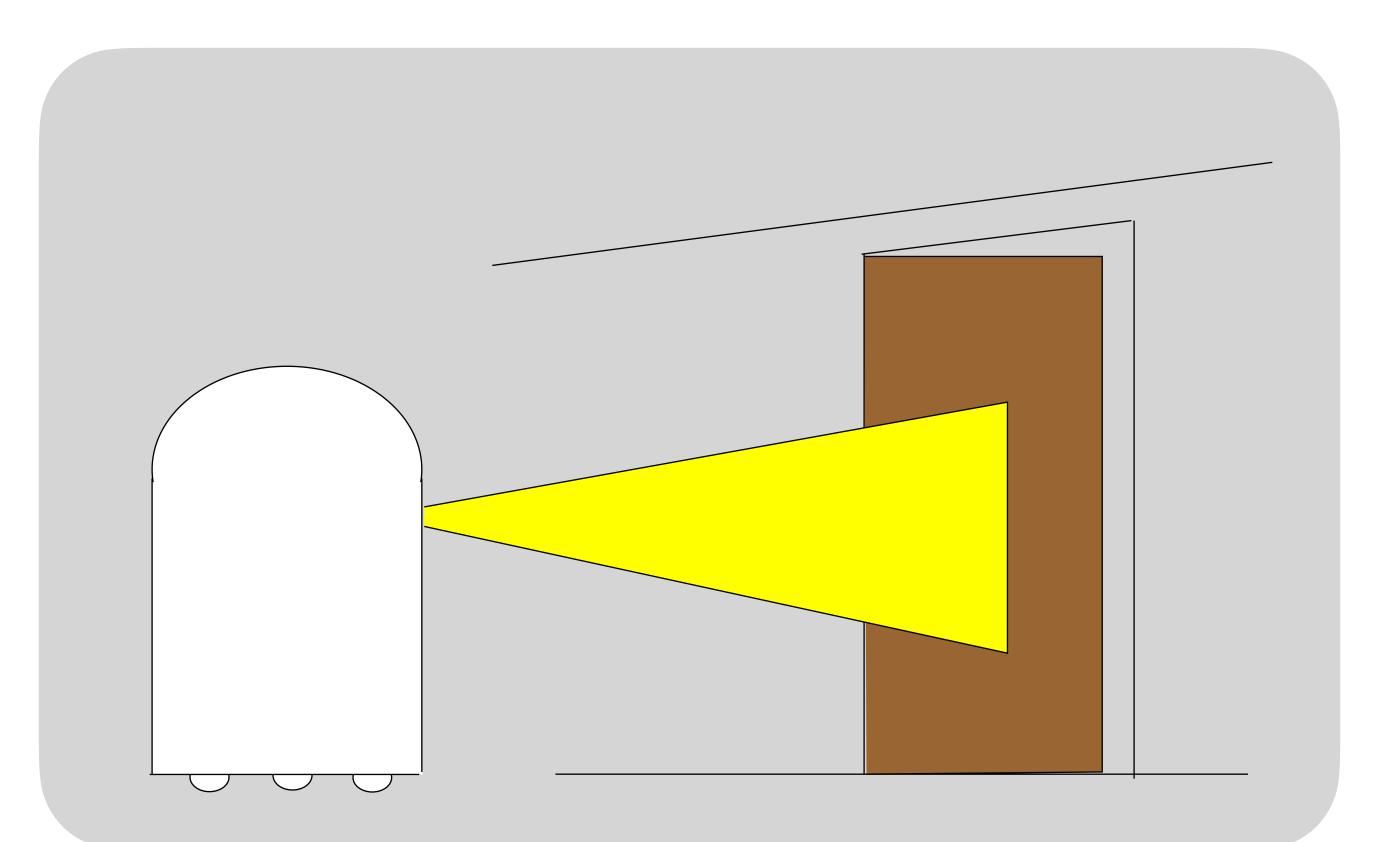


**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



## **Simple Example of State Estimation**

- What is  $P(open | z_1, z_2)$ ?







# • Suppose our robot obtains another observation $z_2$ .

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



## **Recursive Bayesian Updating**

 $P(x \mid z_1, \dots z_n) = \frac{P(z_n \mid z_n)}{P(z_n \mid z_n)}$ 

# $z_1, ..., z_{n-1}$ given x.

 $P(x \mid z_1, \dots z_n) = -$ 



$$\frac{|x, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}|}{P(z_n | z_1, \dots, z_{n-1})}$$

**Markov assumption**:  $z_n$  is conditionally independent of

$$P(z_n | x) P(x | z_1, \dots z_{n-1})$$

$$P(z_n | z_1, \dots z_{n-1})$$

$$= \eta P(z_n \mid x) P(x \mid z_1, \dots, z_{n-1})$$

$$\gamma_{1..n} \prod_{i=1...n} P(z_i | x) P(x)$$

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



#### **Example: Second Measurement**

#### $P(\text{open} | z_2, z_1) = \cdot$

# $= \frac{1/2 \times 2/3}{1/2 \times 2/3 + 3/5 \times 1/3} = \frac{5}{8} = 0.625$



# $P(z_2 | \text{open}) = 0.5$ $P(z_2 | \neg \text{open}) = 0.6$ $P(\text{open}|_{z_1}) = 2/3$ $P(\neg \text{open}|_{z_1}) = 1/3$

#### • $z_2$ lowers the probability that the door is open.

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



# **Bayes Filters: Framework**

#### • Given:

- Sensor model P(z|x).
- Action model P(x | u, x').
- Prior probability of the system state P(x).

#### • Wanted:

$$Bel(x_t) = P(x_t | u_1, z_2, \dots u_{t-1}, z_t)$$

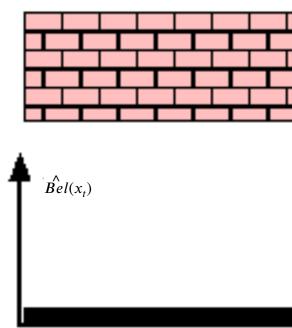


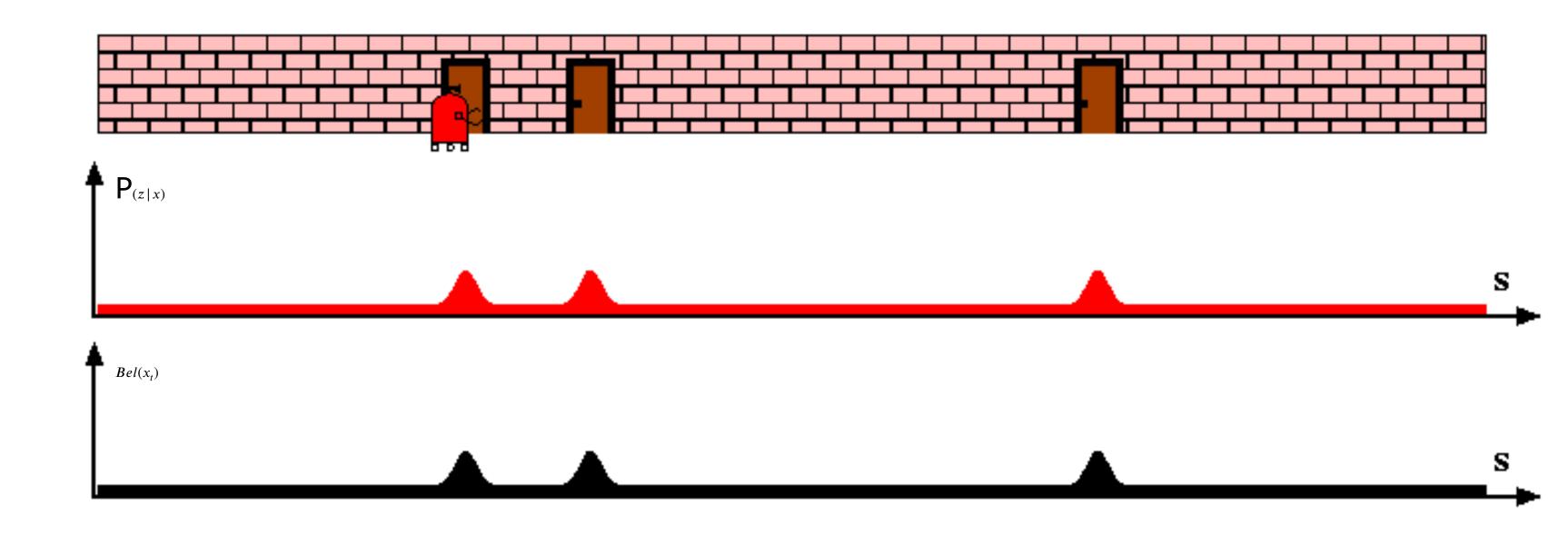
• Stream of observations z and action data u:  $d_t = \{u_1, z_2, \dots, u_{t-1}, z_t\}$ 

• Estimate of the state X of a dynamical system. • The posterior of the state is also called **Belief**:

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 

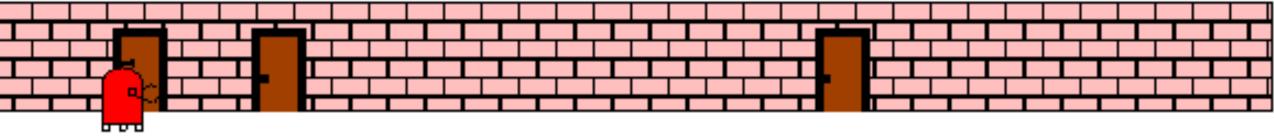




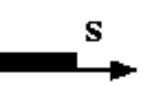




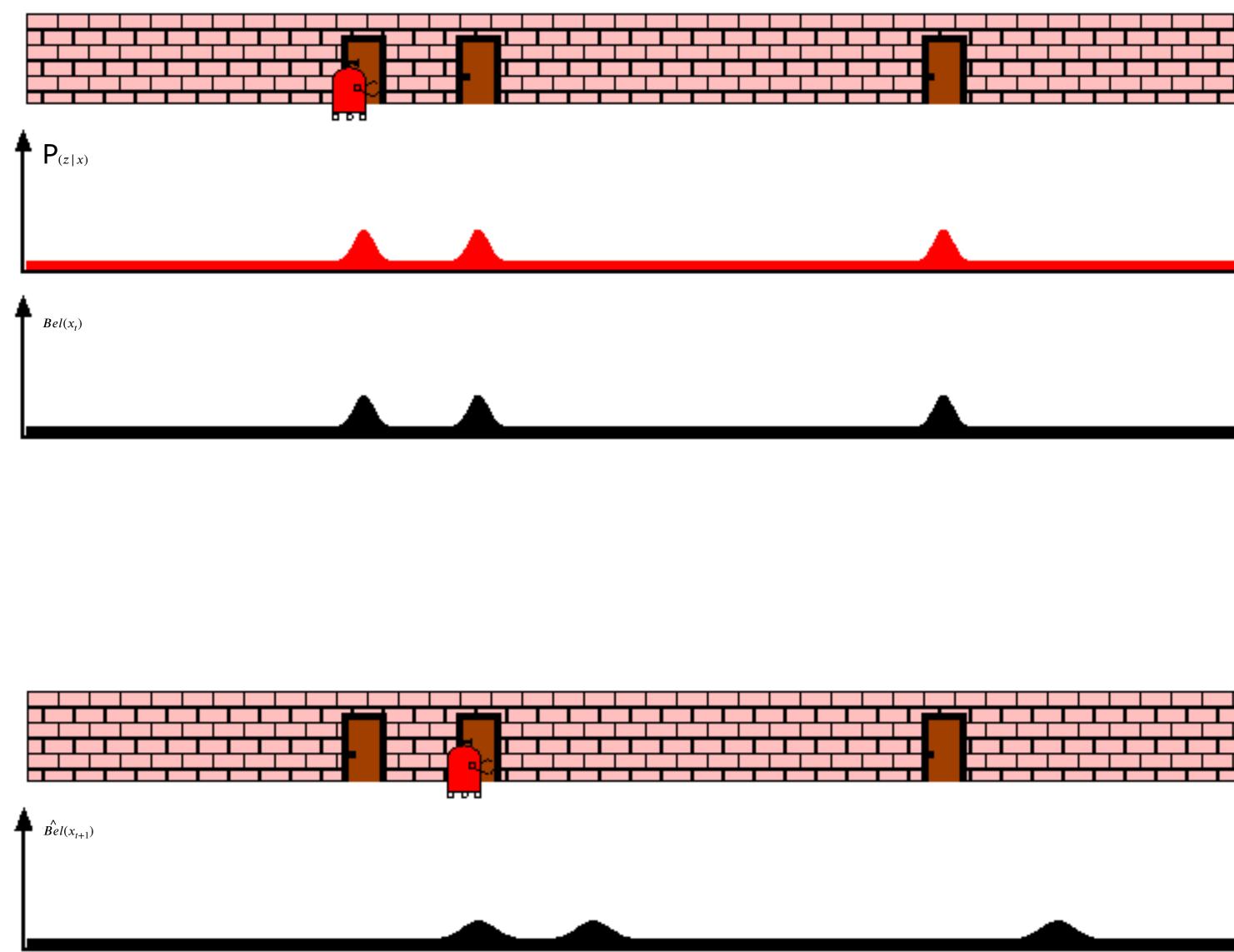


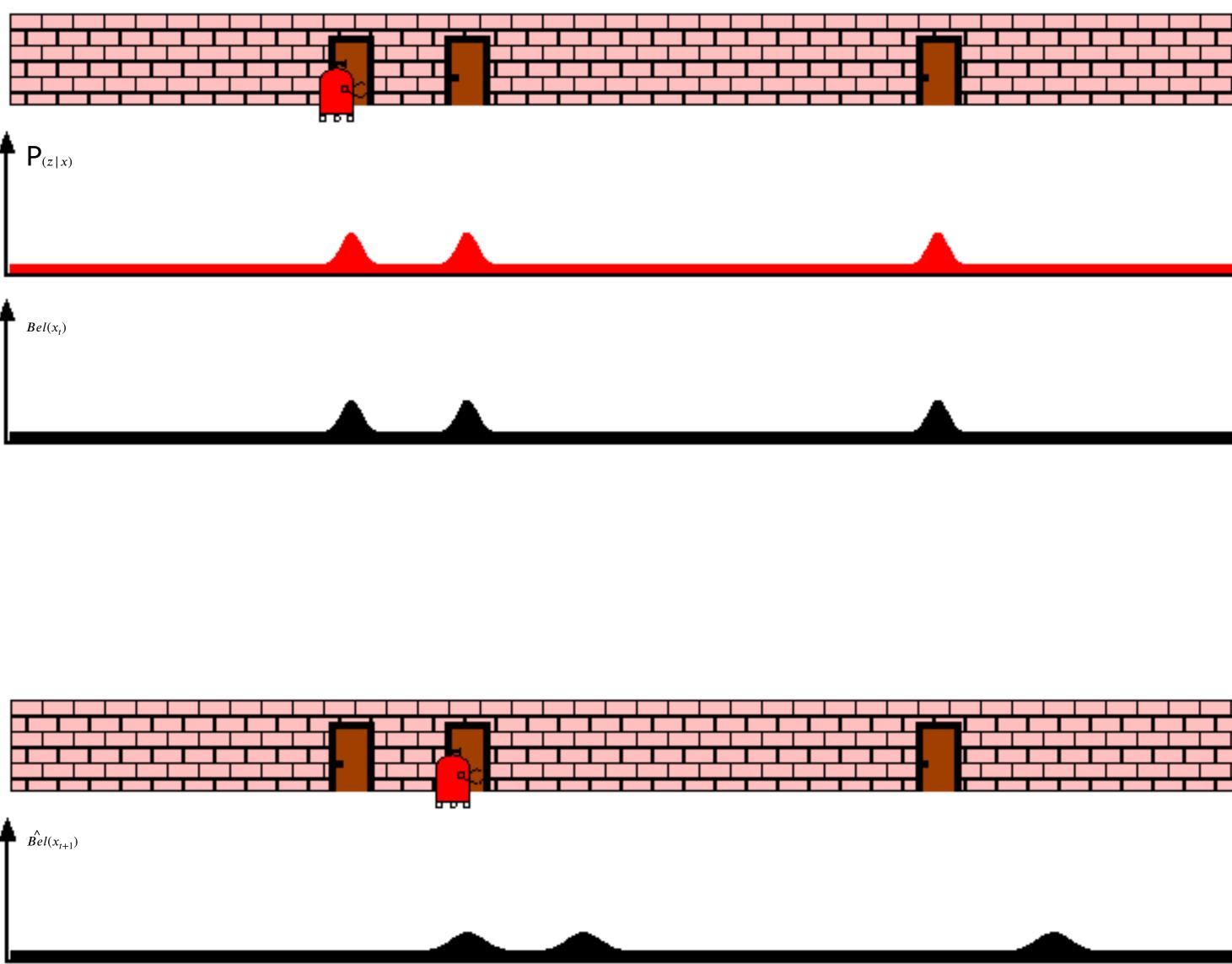


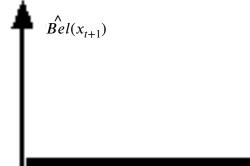
**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 











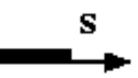




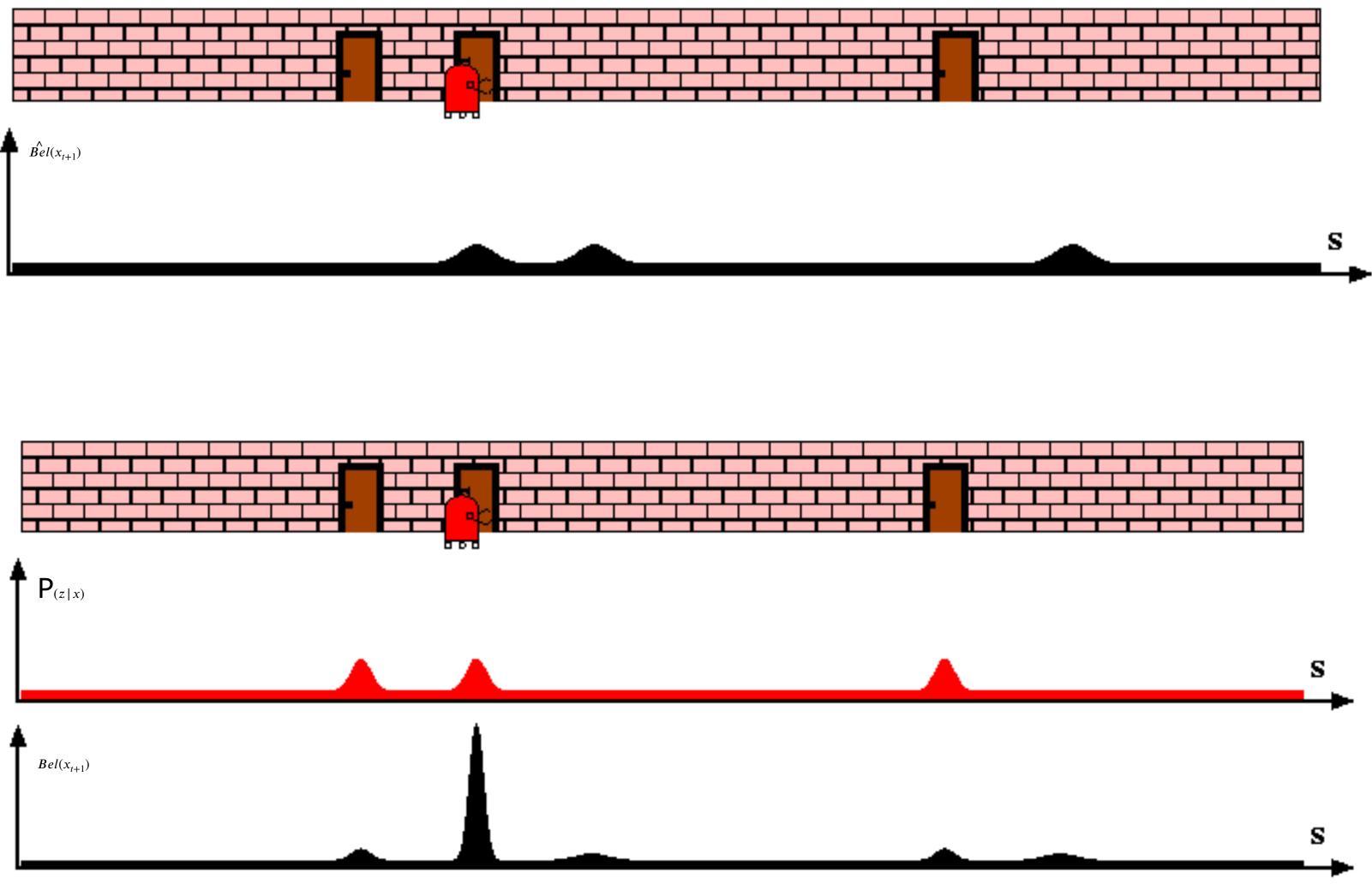
CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025

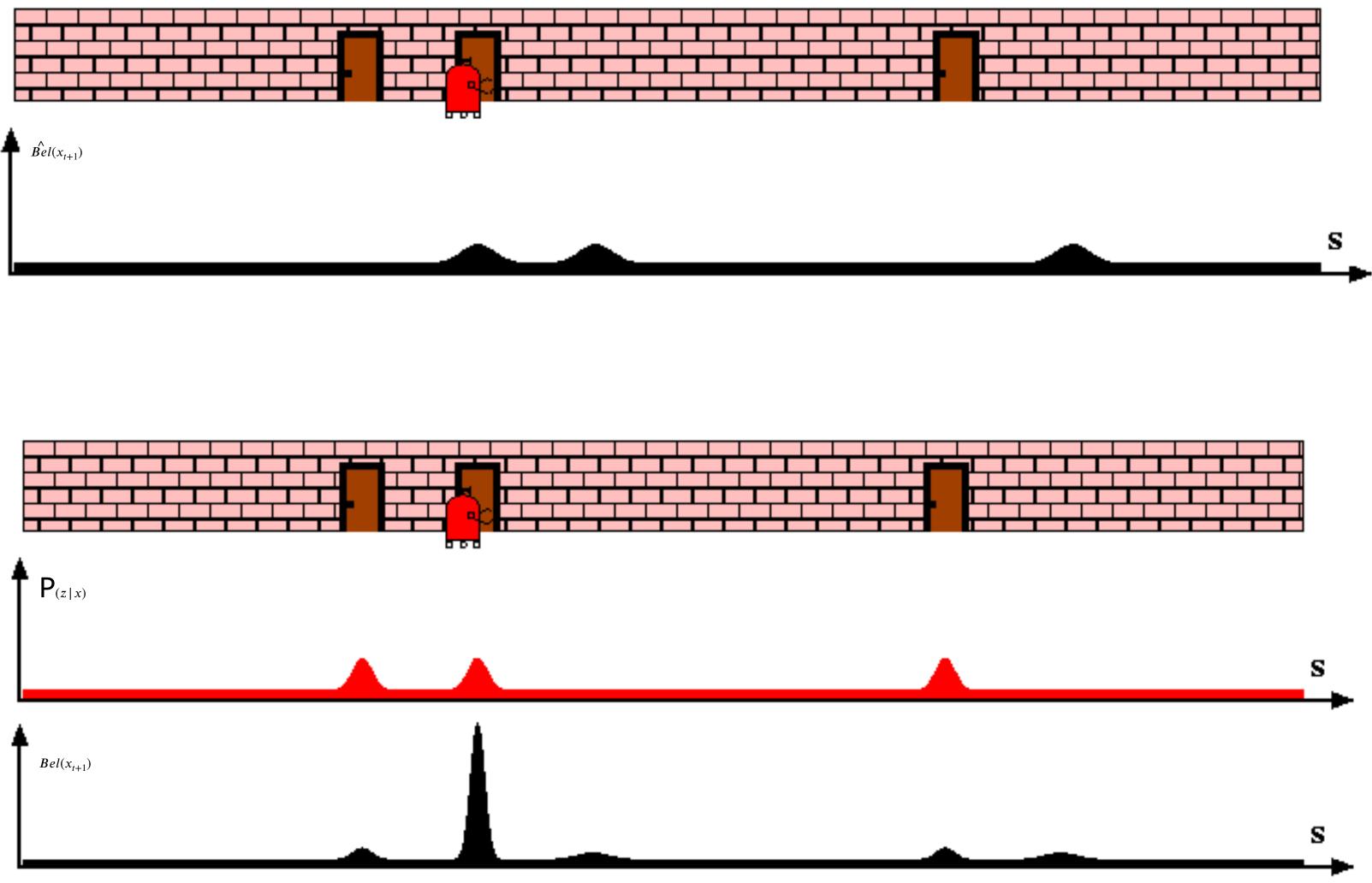










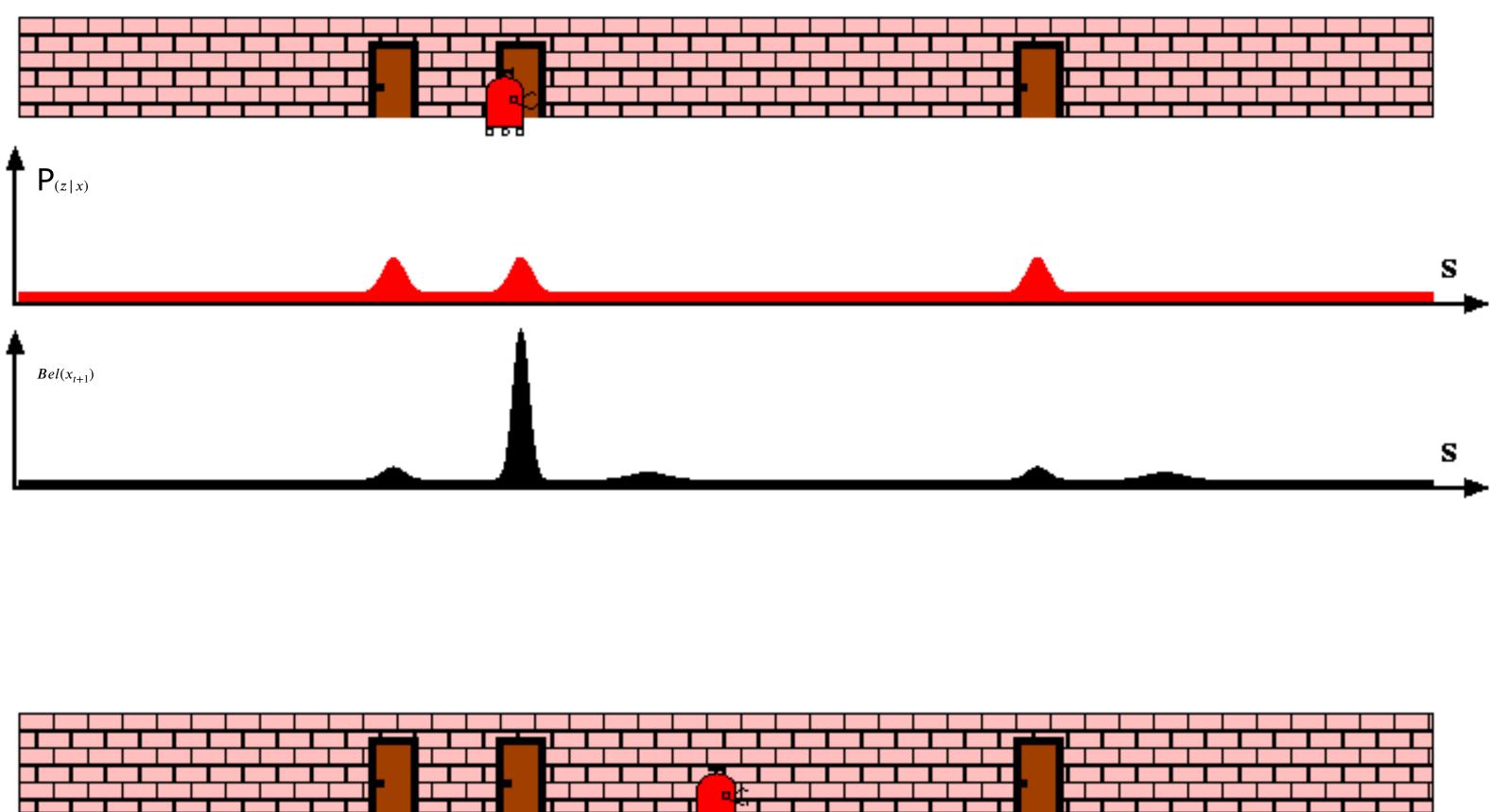


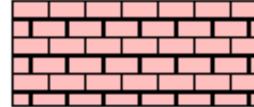




**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 







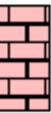
 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\blacktriangleright} Bel(x_{t+2})$ 





....

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 





Bayes Filters  

$$u = \operatorname{action}_{x} = \operatorname{state}^{u}$$

$$Bel(x_{t}) = P(x_{t} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t}, z_{t})$$
Bayes  

$$= \eta P(z_{t} | x_{t}, u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t}) P(x_{t} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t})$$
Markov  

$$= \eta P(z_{t} | x_{t}) P(x_{t} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t})$$
Total prob.  

$$= \eta P(z_{t} | x_{t}) \int P(x_{t} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t}, x_{t-1}) P(x_{t-1} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t}) dx_{t-1}$$
Markov  

$$= \eta P(z_{t} | x_{t}) \int P(x_{t} | u_{t}, x_{t-1}) P(x_{t-1} | u_{1}, z_{1}, ..., u_{t}) dx_{t-1}$$

$$= \eta P(z_{t} | x_{t}) \int P(x_{t} | u_{t}, x_{t-1}) Bel(x_{t-1}) dx_{t-1}$$



M

z = observation

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 



$$Bel(x_t) = \eta P(z_t \mid x_t) \int F$$

- Algorithm **Bayes\_filter**(*Bel(x),d*): 2. *n*=0
  - If d is a perceptual data item z then
- For all x do 4. 5.
  - $Bel'(x) = P(z \mid x)Bel(x)$ 
    - $\eta = \eta + Bel'(x)$
- For all x do 7.

1.

3.

6.

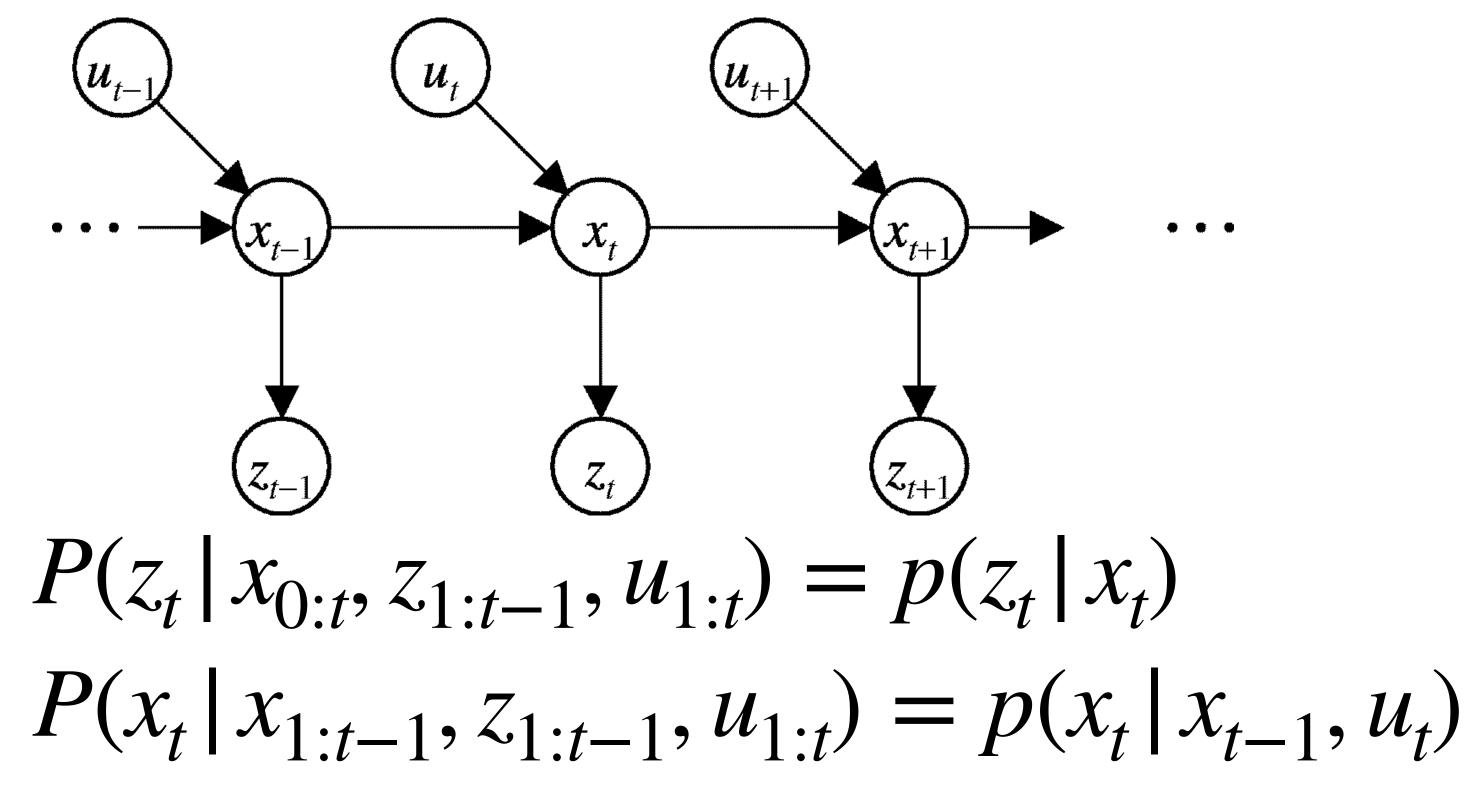
- $Bel'(x) = \eta^{-1}Bel'(x)$ 8.
- Else if d is an action data item u then 9.
- For all x do 10.
- $Bel'(x) = \int P(x \mid u, x') Bel(x') dx'$ 11.
- Return Bel'(x) 12.



#### $P(x_t | u_t, x_{t-1}) Bel(x_{t-1}) dx_{t-1}$



# Markov Assumption



**Underlying Assumptions** 

- Static world
- Independent noise
- Perfect model, no approximation errors



CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025



# **Bayes Filters are Familiar!**

 $Bel(x_t) = \eta P(z_t | x_t) P(x_t | x_{t-1} u_t) Bel(x_{t-1}) dx_{t-1}$ 

- Kalman filters
- Particle filters
- Hidden Markov models
- Dynamic Bayesian networks
- Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes (POMDPs)



### odels n networks ole Markov Decision Ps)



## Summary

- Bayes rule allows us to compute otherwise.
- Under the Markov assumption,
- systems.



# probabilities that are hard to assess

recursive Bayesian updating can be used to efficiently combine evidence.

 Bayes filters are a probabilistic tool for estimating the state of dynamic



# Next Lecture **Mobile Robotics - II - Motion &** Sensor Models





**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2025** 

# Final Project (Open ended)

Think along these axes to decide your final project!

**Evaluating your** implementation/system with quantitative results are VERY important!

Long horizon tasks

#### Tasks



#### **Objects**

Rearrangment of a set of objects

Multi-robot task execution Robots

**CSCI 5551 - Spring 2024** 

