

# Algorithms for Causal Probabilistic Graphical Models

## Class 1: **Introduction and Inference**

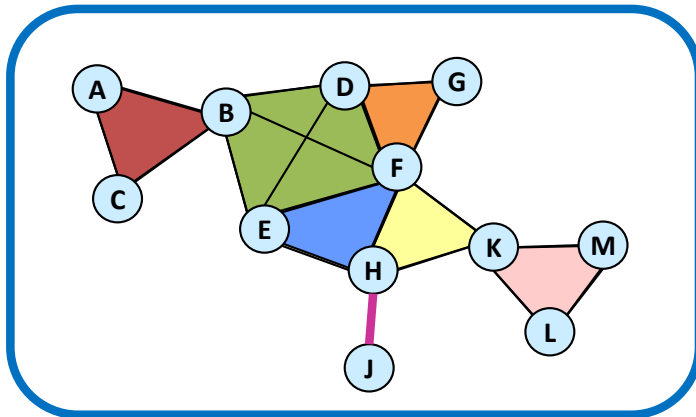
Athens Summer School on AI  
July 2024



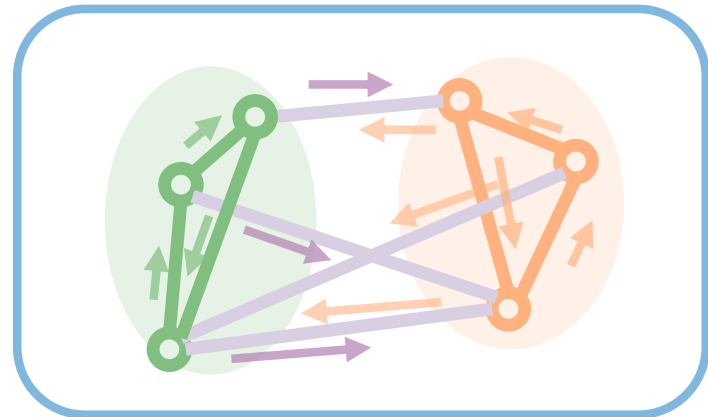
Prof. Rina Dechter  
Prof. Alexander Ihler

# Outline of Lectures

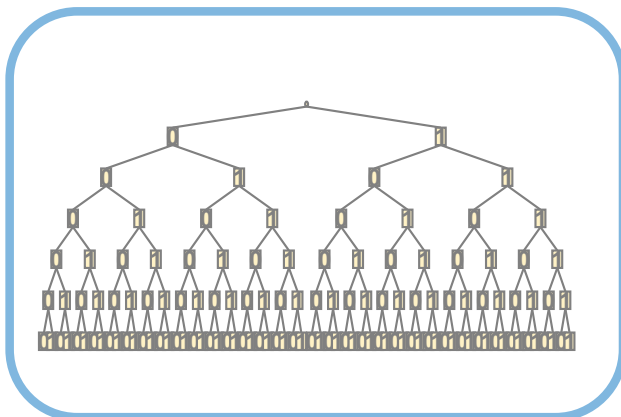
Class 1: Introduction & Inference



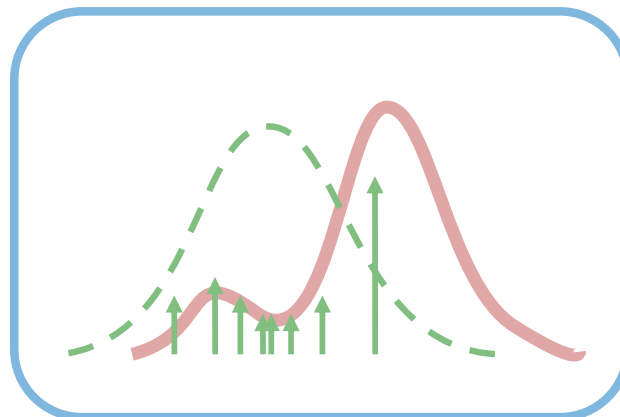
Class 2: Bounds & Variational Methods



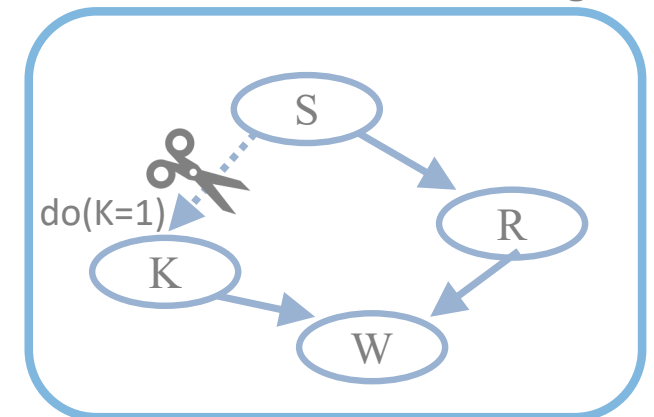
Class 3: Search Methods



Class 4: Monte Carlo Methods



Class 5: Causal Reasoning



# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

Tree Decomposition

Variable Orderings

Learning from Data

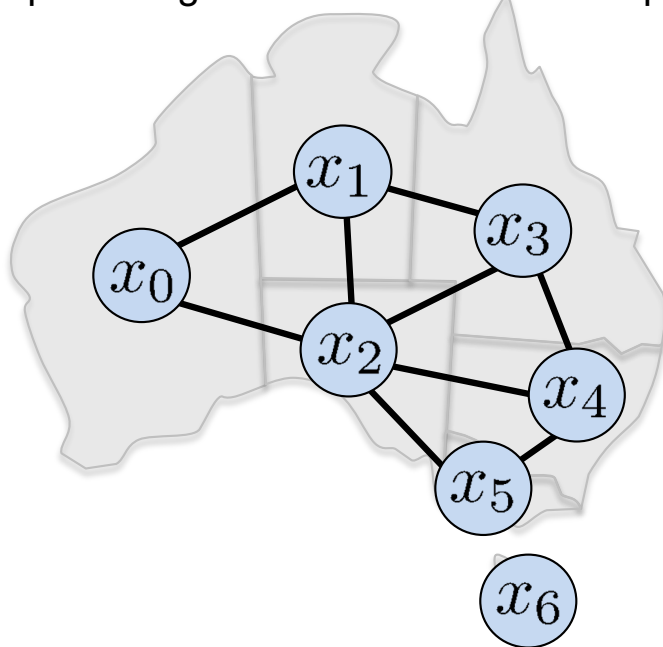
# Graphical Models

Describe structure and interdependence in a model of the world

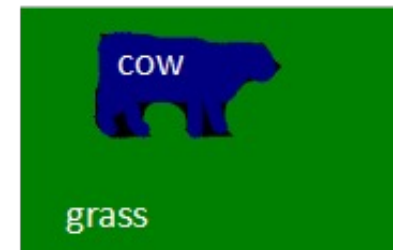
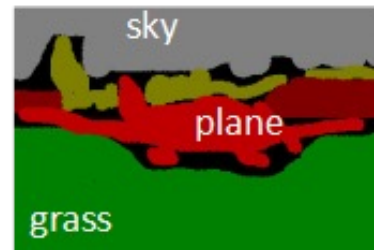
Examples:

- Markov Random Fields: correlations

Map coloring & constraint satisfaction problems



Semantic segmentation: fine-grain object recognition





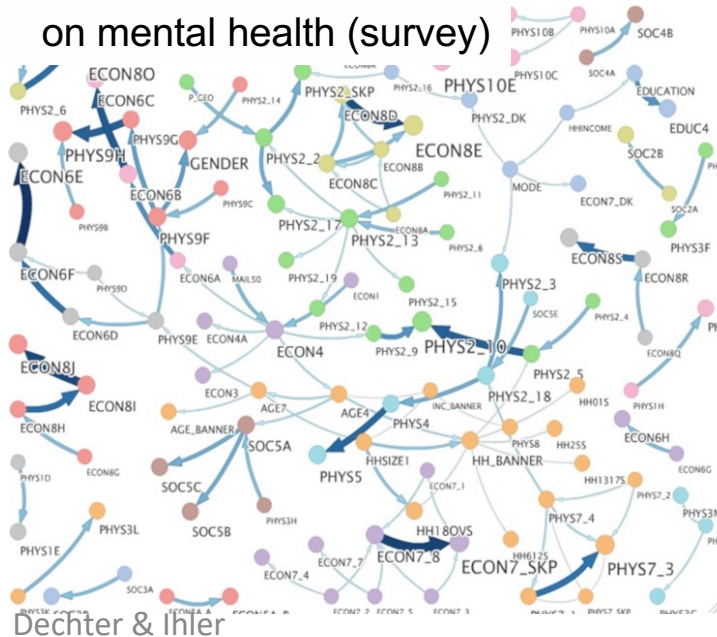
# Graphical Models

Describe structure and interdependence in a model of the world

Examples:

- Markov Random Fields: correlations
- Bayesian Networks: conditional dependence
- Causal Networks: effect of intervention – what would happen if?

Impact of COVID & assistance  
on mental health (survey)



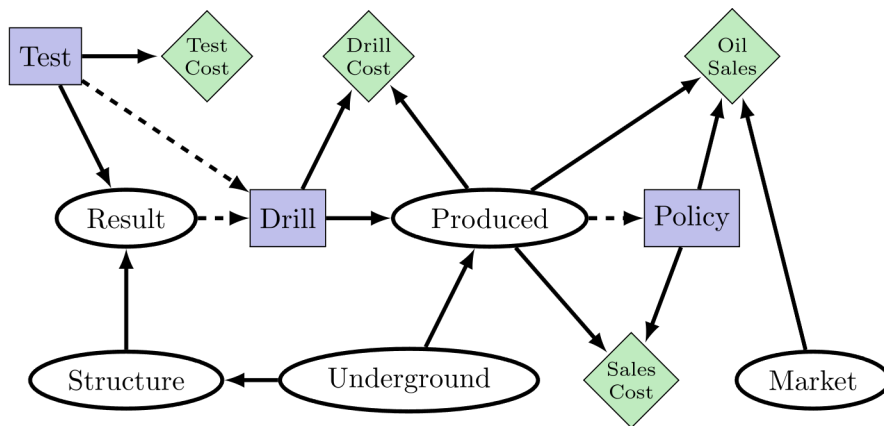
# Graphical Models

Describe structure and interdependence in a model of the world

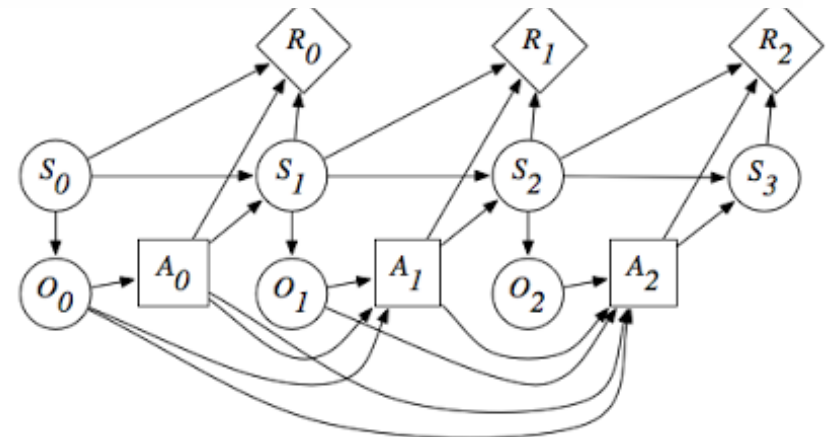
Examples:

- Markov Random Fields: correlations
- Bayesian Networks: conditional dependence
- Causal Networks: effect of intervention – what would happen if?
- Influence Diagrams: actions and rewards – what should we do if?

“Oil Wildcatter” Decision Network



(Partially Observable) Markov Decision Process  
(Planning, Reinforcement Learning)



# Bayesian networks

Use **independence** and **conditional independence** to simplify a **joint probability**

- Joint probability,  $p(X=x, Y=y, Z=z)$ 
  - The probability that event  $(x, y, z)$  happens.

- Conditional probability

- The chain rule of probability tells us

$$p(X=x, Y=y, Z=z) = p(X=x) \quad p(Y=y \mid X=x) \quad p(Z=z \mid X=x, Y=y)$$

(x,y,z all happen)      (x happens)      (y happens given x happened)      (z happens given x,y happened)

- Can use any order, e.g.  $(Z, X, Y)$ :

$$p(X=x, Y=y, Z=z) = p(Z=z) \quad p(X=x \mid Z=z) \quad p(Y=y \mid X=x, Z=z)$$



# Independence

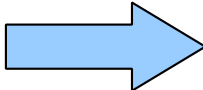
- X, Y independent:
  - $p(X=x, Y=y) = p(X=x) p(Y=y)$  for all  $x, y$
  - Shorthand:  $p(X, Y) = P(X) P(Y)$
  - Equivalent:  $p(X|Y) = p(X)$  or  $p(Y|X) = p(Y)$  (if  $p(Y), p(X) > 0$ )
  - Intuition: knowing X has no information about Y (or vice versa)

Independent probability distributions:

A	P(A)
0	0.4
1	0.6

B	P(B)
0	0.7
1	0.3

C	P(C)
0	0.1
1	0.9

Joint: 

A	B	C	P(A,B,C)
0	0	0	.4 * .7 * .1
0	0	1	.4 * .7 * .9
0	1	0	.4 * .3 * .1
0	1	1	...
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	

This reduces representation size!

# Independence

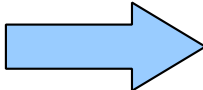
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Independent probability distributions:

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0	0.7
1	0.3

C	P(C)
0	0.1
1	0.9

Joint: 

A	B	C	P(A,B,C)
0	0	0	0.028
0	0	1	0.252
0	1	0	0.012
0	1	1	0.108
1	0	0	0.042
1	0	1	0.378
1	1	0	0.018
1	1	1	0.162

This reduces representation size!

Note: it is hard to “read” independence from the joint distribution.

We can “test” for it, however.

# Conditional Independence

- X, Y independent given Z
  - $p(X=x, Y=y | Z=z) = p(X=x | Z=z) p(Y=y | Z=z)$  for all  $x, y, z$
  - Equivalent:  $p(X|Y, Z) = p(X|Z)$  or  $p(Y|X, Z) = p(Y|Z)$  (if all  $> 0$ )
  - Intuition: X has no additional info about Y beyond Z's

- Example

X = height

$$p(\text{height} | \text{reading}, \text{age}) = p(\text{height} | \text{age})$$

Y = reading ability

$$p(\text{reading} | \text{height}, \text{age}) = p(\text{reading} | \text{age})$$

Z = age

Height and reading ability are dependent (not independent), but are conditionally independent given age

# Conditional Independence

- X, Y independent given Z
  - $p(X=x, Y=y | Z=z) = p(X=x | Z=z) p(Y=y | Z=z)$  for all  $x, y, z$
  - Equivalent:  $p(X|Y, Z) = p(X|Z)$  or  $p(Y|X, Z) = p(Y|Z)$
  - Intuition: X has no additional info about Y beyond Z's

- Example: Dentist

$$(T \perp\!\!\!\perp D | C)?$$

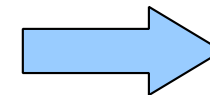
Is T conditionally independent of C given D?

Again, hard to “read” from the joint probabilities; only from the conditional probabilities.

Like independence, reduces representation size!

Joint prob:

T	D	C	P(T,D,C)
0	0	0	0.576
0	0	1	0.008
0	1	0	0.144
0	1	1	0.072
1	0	0	0.064
1	0	1	0.012
1	1	0	0.016
1	1	1	0.108



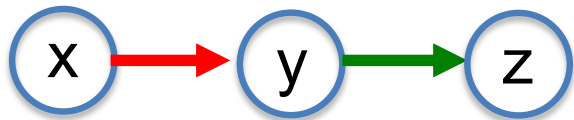
Conditional prob:

T	D	C	P(T D,C)
0	0	0	0.90
0	0	1	0.40
0	1	0	0.90
0	1	1	0.40
1	0	0	0.10
1	0	1	0.60
1	1	0	0.10
1	1	1	0.60

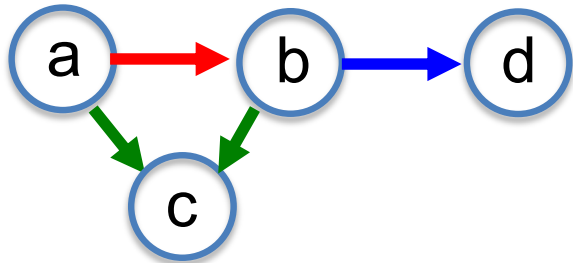
# Bayesian networks

- Directed graphical model
- Nodes associated with variables
- “Draw” independence in conditional probability expansion
  - Parents in graph are the RHS of conditional

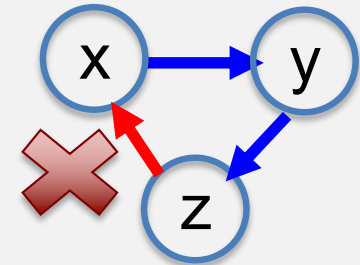
- Ex:  $p(x, y, z) = p(x) p(y | x) p(z | y)$



- Ex  $p(a, b, c, d) = p(a) p(b | a) p(c | a, b) p(d | b)$



Graph must be **acyclic**



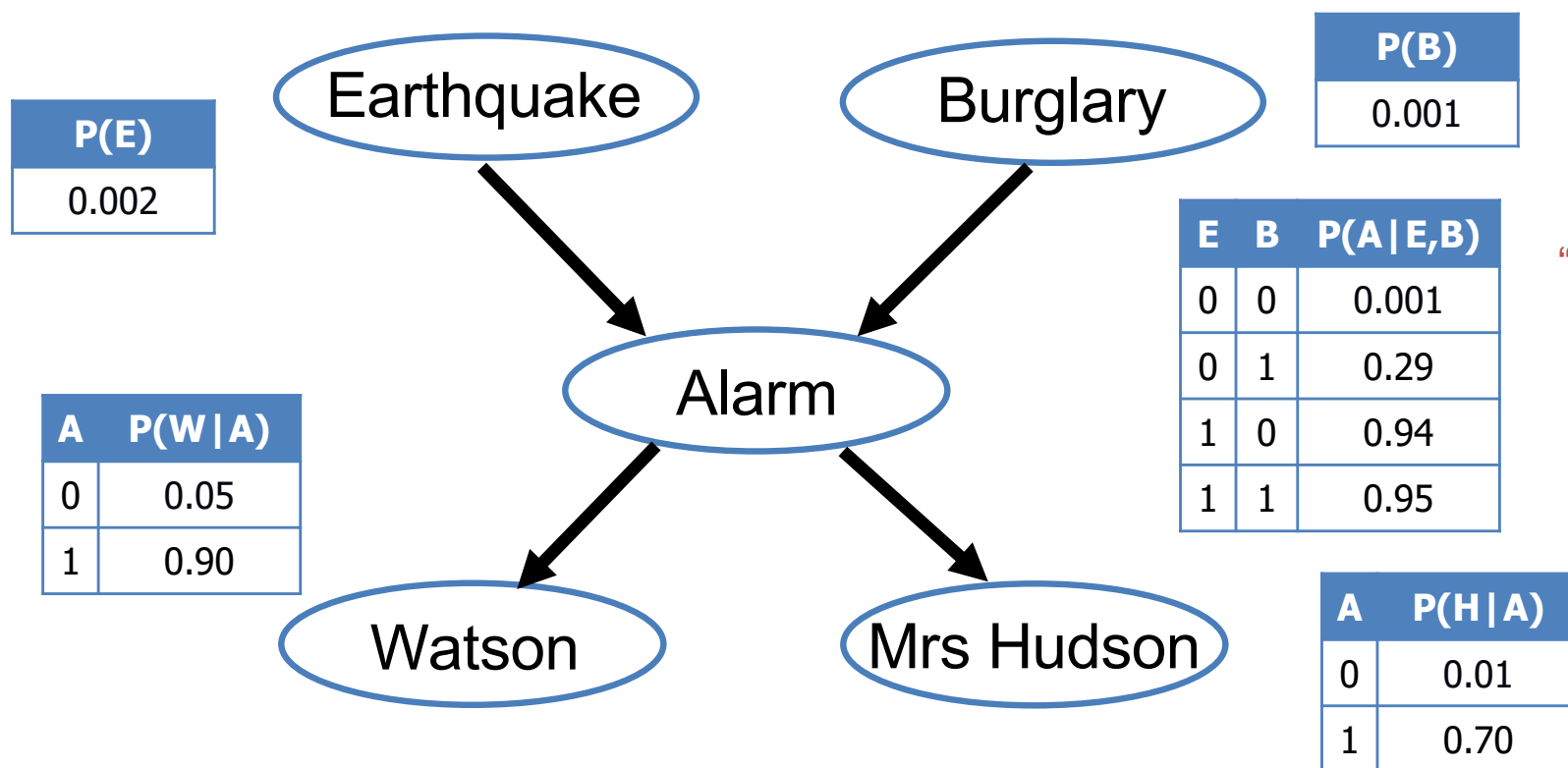
Corresponds to an order over the variables (chain rule)

# Example

- Consider the following 5 binary variables:
  - B = a burglary occurs at your house
  - E = an earthquake occurs at your house
  - A = the alarm goes off
  - W = Watson calls to report the alarm
  - H = Mrs. Hudson calls to report the alarm
- What is  $P(B \mid H=1, W=1)$  ? (for example)
- We can use the full joint distribution to answer this question
  - Requires  $2^5 = 32$  probabilities
  - Can we use prior domain knowledge to come up with a Bayesian network that requires fewer probabilities?

# Constructing a Bayesian network

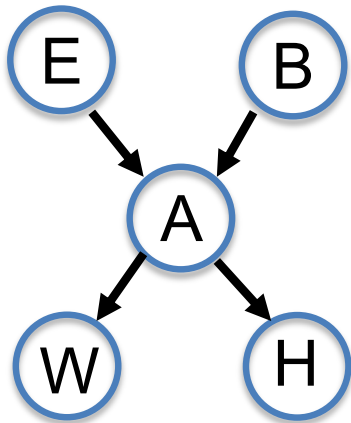
- Given  $p(W, H, A, E, B) = p(E) p(B) p(A|E, B) p(W|A) p(H|A)$
- Define probabilities: 1 + 1 + 4 + 2 + 2
- Where do these come from?
  - Expert knowledge; estimate from data; some combination



“CPT” = conditional probability table

# Constructing a Bayesian network

- Joint distribution



Full joint distribution:  
 $2^5 = 32$  probabilities

Structured distribution:  
 specify 10 parameters

E	B	A	W	H	P( ... )
0	0	0	0	0	.93674
0	0	0	0	1	.00133
0	0	0	1	0	.00005
0	0	0	1	1	.00000
0	0	1	0	0	.00003
0	0	1	0	1	.00002
0	0	1	1	0	.00003
0	0	1	1	1	.00000
0	1	0	0	0	.04930
0	1	0	0	1	.00007
0	1	0	1	0	.00000
0	1	0	1	1	.00000
0	1	1	0	0	.00027
0	1	1	0	1	.00016
0	1	1	1	0	.00025
0	1	1	1	1	.00000

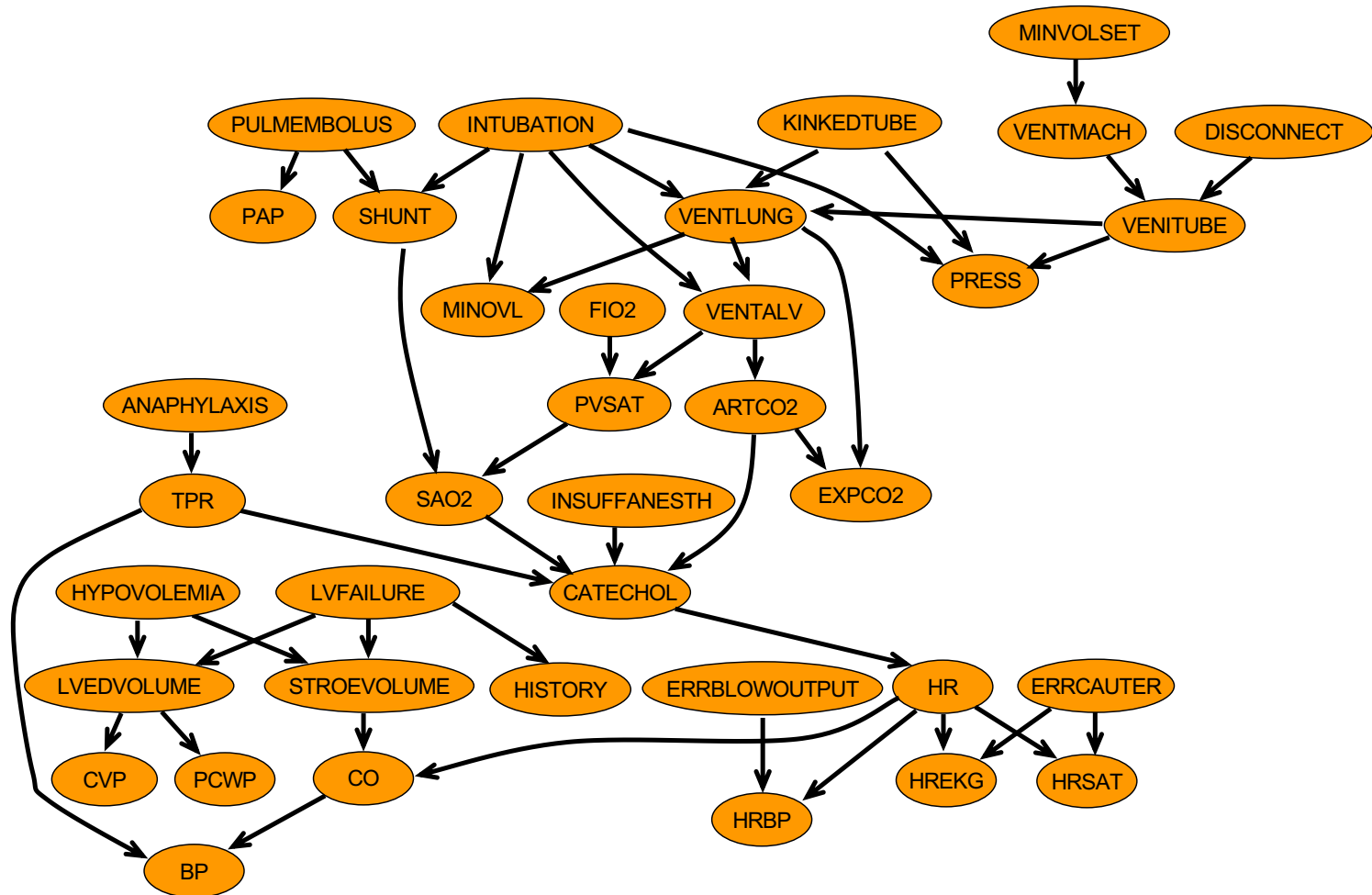
E	B	A	W	H	P( ... )
1	0	0	0	0	.00946
1	0	0	0	1	.00001
1	0	0	1	0	.00000
1	0	0	1	1	.00000
1	0	1	0	0	.00007
1	0	1	0	1	.00004
1	0	1	1	0	.00007
1	0	1	1	1	.00000
1	1	0	0	0	.00050
1	1	0	0	1	.00000
1	1	0	1	0	.00000
1	1	0	1	1	.00000
1	1	1	0	0	.00063
1	1	1	0	1	.00037
1	1	1	1	0	.00059
1	1	1	1	1	.00000



# Alarm network

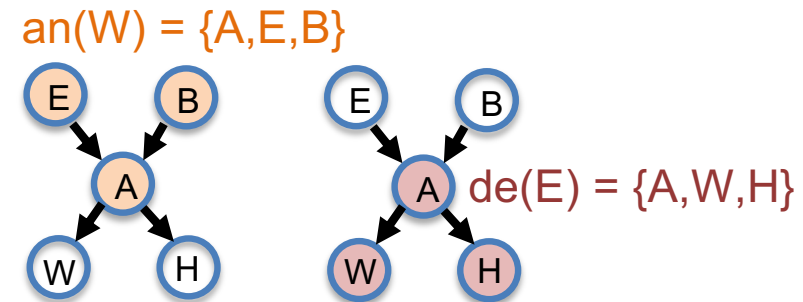
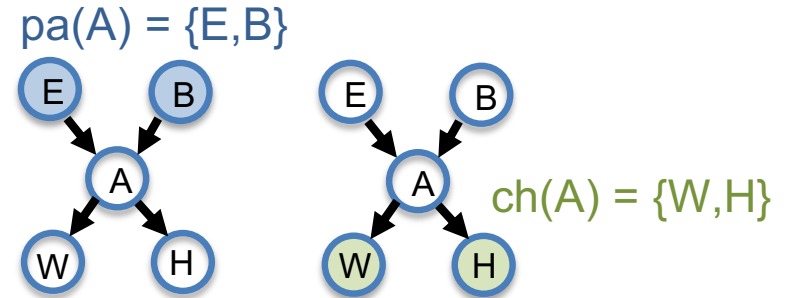
[Beinlich et al., 1989]

The “alarm” network: 37 variables, 509 parameters (rather than  $2^{37} = 10^{11}$  !)



# Some terminology

- Parents & Children
  - Parents  $pa(A) = \{E, B\}$
  - Children  $ch(A) = \{W, H\}$
- Ancestors & Descendants
  - Ancestors  $an(W) = \{A, E, B\}$
  - Descendants  $de(E) = \{A, W, H\}$
- Roots & Leaves
- Paths
  - Directed paths, undirected paths



# Graphical models

A *graphical model* consists of:

$X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  -- variables

$D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$  -- domains (we'll assume discrete)

$F = \{f_{\alpha_1}, \dots, f_{\alpha_m}\}$  -- functions or “factors”

and a *combination operator*

Example:

$A \in \{0, 1\}$

$B \in \{0, 1\}$

$C \in \{0, 1\}$

$f_{AB}(A, B), \quad f_{BC}(B, C)$

The *combination operator* defines an overall function from the individual factors,

e.g., “\*” :  $F(A, B, C) = f_{AB}(A, B) \cdot f_{BC}(B, C)$

Notation:

Discrete  $X_i$  : values called “states”

“Tuple” or “configuration”: states taken by a set of variables

“Scope” of  $f$ : set of variables that are arguments to a factor  $f$

often index factors by their scope, e.g.,  $f_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha}), \quad X_{\alpha} \subseteq X$

# Canonical forms

A *graphical model* consists of:

$$X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\} \quad \text{-- variables}$$

$$D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\} \quad \text{-- domains}$$


$$F = \{f_{\alpha_1}, \dots, f_{\alpha_m}\} \quad \text{-- functions or "factors"}$$

and a *combination operator*

Typically either multiplication or summation; mostly equivalent:

$$f_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha}) \geq 0$$

$$F(X) = \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha})$$

  
log / exp

$$\theta_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha}) = \log f_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha}) \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\theta(X) = \log F(x) = \sum_{\alpha} \theta_{\alpha}(X_{\alpha})$$

Product of nonnegative factors  
(probabilities, 0/1, etc.)

Sum of factors  
(costs, utilities, etc.)

# Graphical visualization

A *graphical model* consists of:

$X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  -- variables

$D = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$  -- domains

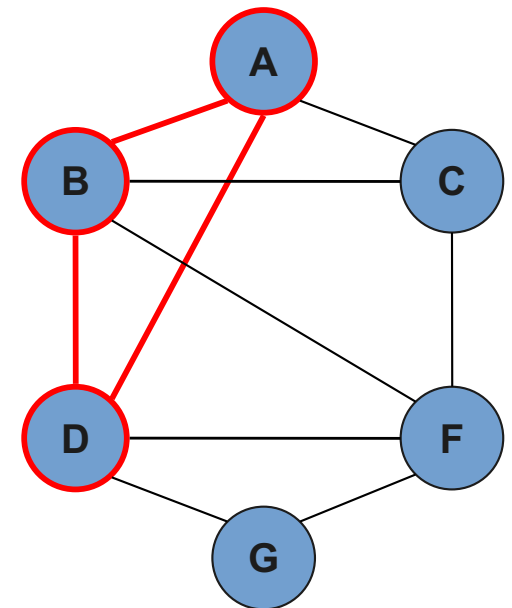
$F = \{f_{\alpha_1}, \dots, f_{\alpha_m}\}$  -- functions or “factors”

Primal graph:

variables  $\leftrightarrow$  nodes

factors  $\leftrightarrow$  cliques

$$p(A, B, C, D, F, G) = f_1(A, B, D) \cdot f_2(D, F, G) \\ \cdot f_3(B, C, F) \cdot f_4(A, C)$$



# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

Tree Decomposition

Variable Orderings

Learning from Data

# Inference

Enable us to answer **queries** about our model

- Some probabilities are directly accessible
- Some are only **implicit**, and require computation

$$p(\mathbf{B}=1) = .001$$

Explicitly in model parameters

$$p(\mathbf{A}=1) = ?$$

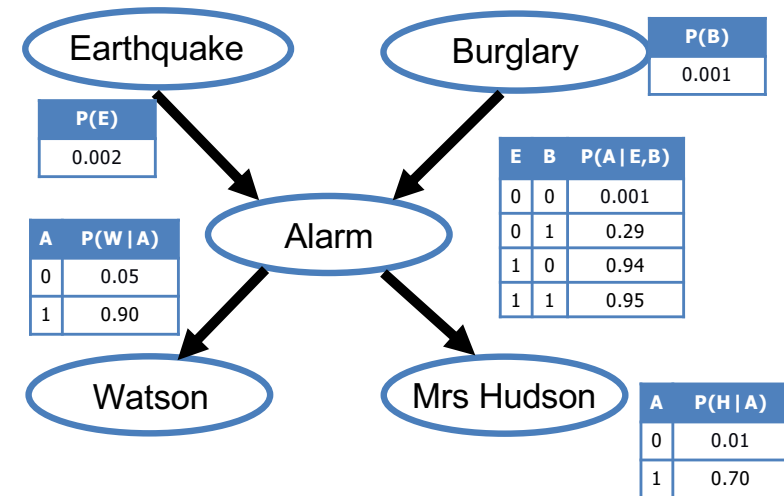
Implicit only:

$$p(\mathbf{A}=1|\mathbf{E}=0, \mathbf{B}=0) p(\mathbf{E}=0) p(\mathbf{B}=0) + \\ p(\mathbf{A}=1|\mathbf{E}=1, \mathbf{B}=0) p(\mathbf{E}=1) p(\mathbf{B}=0) + \dots$$

$$p(\mathbf{W}=1) = ?$$

Implicit:

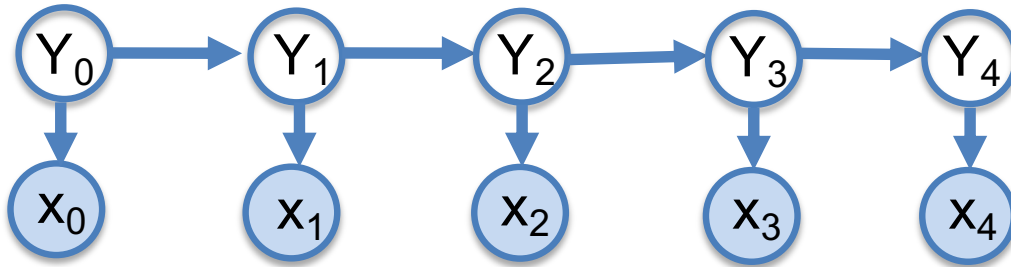
$$p(\mathbf{W}=1|\mathbf{A}=0) p(\mathbf{A}=0) + p(\mathbf{W}=1|\mathbf{A}=1) p(\mathbf{A}=1) \\ p(\mathbf{A}) = ? \quad (\text{may need to compute recursively!})$$



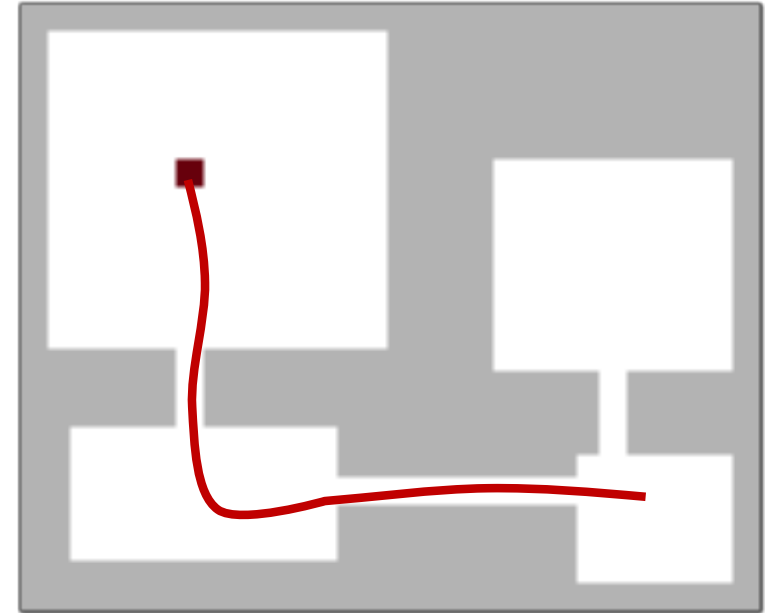
# Types of queries

Ex: Robot position over time

$Y_t$ : robot location at time  $t$



$x_t$ : noisy observations



**Summation Query** (marginal probabilities, probability of evidence):

$$p(Y_t | x_0 \dots x_t) \propto \sum_{y_{t-1}} \dots \sum_{y_0} p(Y_t, x_t, y_{t-1}, \dots, x_0)$$

*What do my model and observations tell me about my uncertainty?*

**Maximization Query** (MAP: maximum a posteriori estimation):

$$y^* = \arg \max_{y_0, \dots, y_t} p(y_t, x_t, y_{t-1}, \dots, x_0)$$

*What is the most probable value of the unobserved variables?*



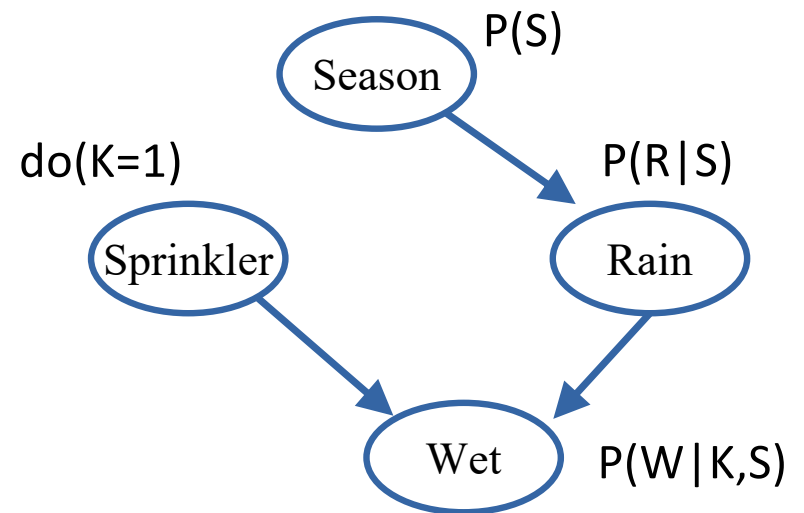
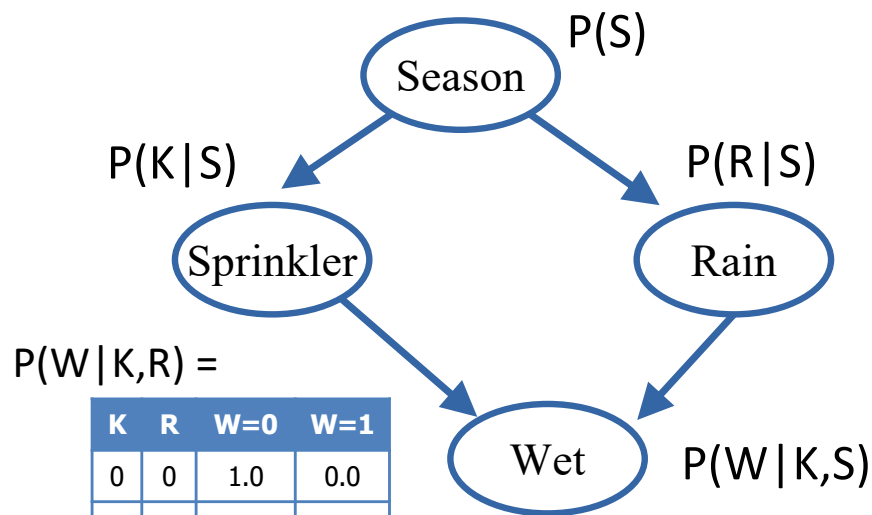
# Causal Bayesian networks

- Typical BNs capture conditional independence
- May not correspond to causation; but if so:

**Causal Effect Query** (“Intervention”):

$$p(W | \text{do}(K = 1))$$

*What is the probability when we intervene to turn on the sprinkler?*



# Influence diagrams

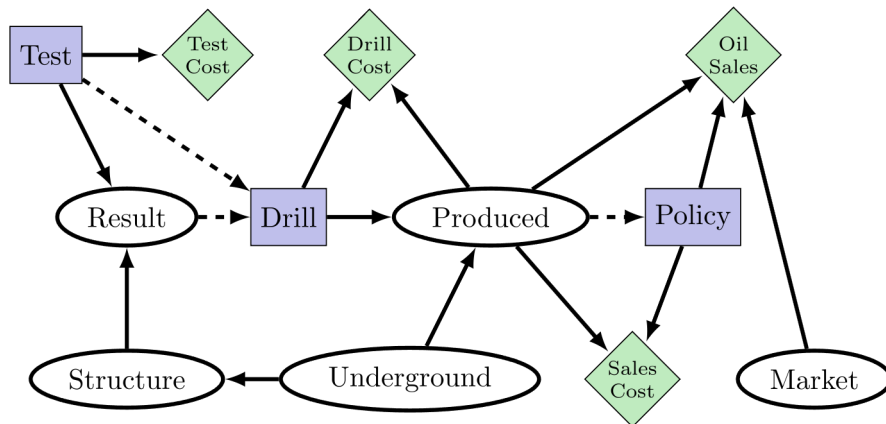
Random variables, plus **actions** (policy) and **utilities** (outcome values)

## Maximum Expected Utility Query:

*What actions should I take in a given situation?*

*What is the expected value of my policy over the actions?*

The “oil wildcatter” problem:



e.g., [Raiffa 1968; Shachter 1986]

Chance variables:  $X = x_1, \dots, x_n$

Decision variables:  $D = d_1, \dots, d_m$

CPDs for chance variables:  $P_i = P(x_i | x_{pa_i})$ ,

Reward components:  $r = \{r_1, \dots, r_j\}$

Utility function:  $u(X) = \sum_i r_i(X)$

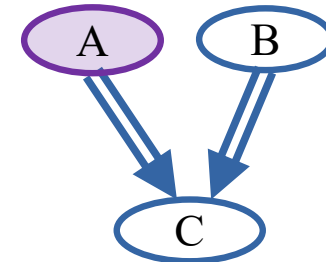
# Structural Causal Models

Deterministic mechanisms involving (random) underlying causes

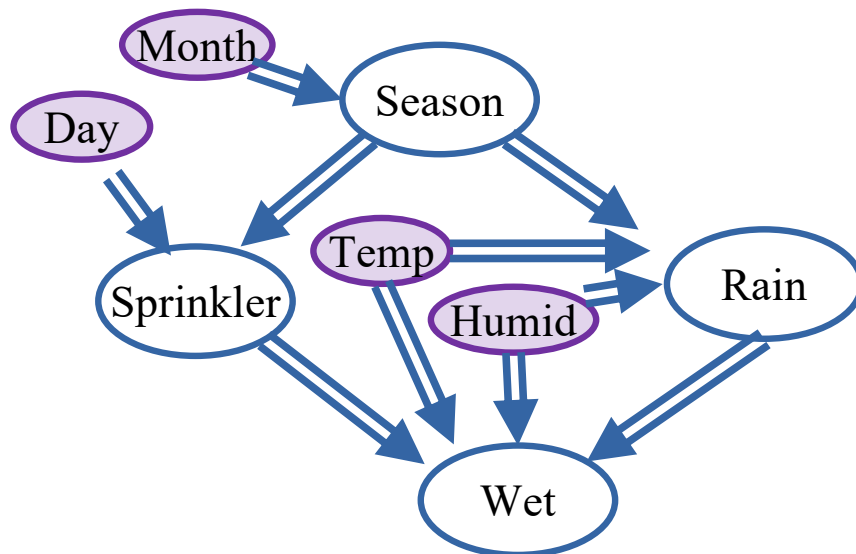
Unobservable random variables: {A}

Observable variables: {B,C}

Deterministic mechanism:  $\Rightarrow C = f(A,B)$



Ex: Sprinkler



- $p(S)$ : season a function of (unobserved) month
- $p(K|S)$ : sprinkler on due to watering schedule: randomness in  $K$  due to (unobserved) day of week
- $p(R|S)$  caused by humidity and temperature
- $p(W|R,K)$  also caused by humidity and temperature (effects of evaporation, etc.)

# Structural Causal Models

Deterministic mechanisms involving (random) underlying causes

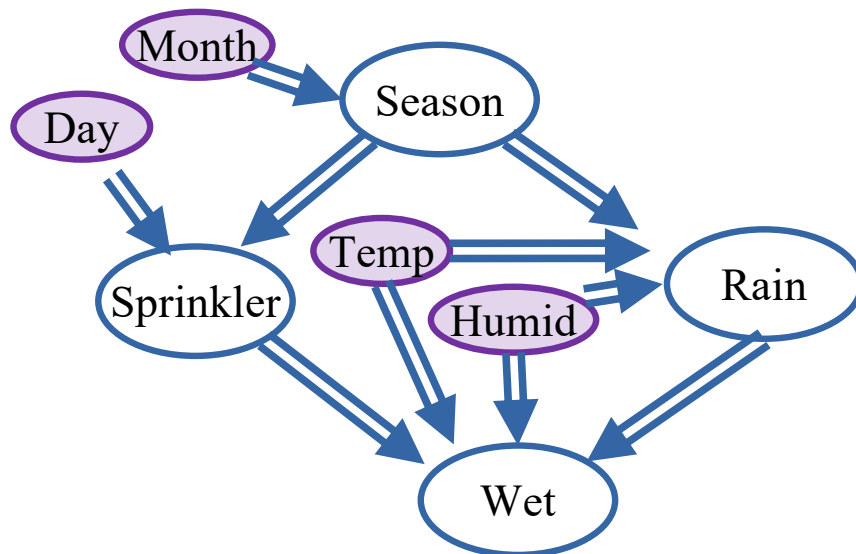
## Counterfactual Query:

Probability of an event in contradiction with the observations

*What would have happened if the sprinkler had been turned off?*

Requires that we transfer information about random outcomes that happened, to a different setting

Ex: Sprinkler



Observe the sprinkler is on & grass is wet: ( $K=1, W=1$ )

What is the probability it would still be wet if we had turned the sprinkler off?

Observing  $K=1$  tells us it is more likely to be summer;  
Observing  $K=1, W=1$  tells us it is not too hot & dry.

Then, apply this knowledge to compute the counterfactual:

$$p(W_{K=0} \mid K = 1, W = 1)$$

# Why graphical models?

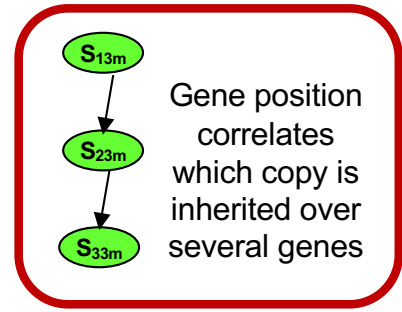
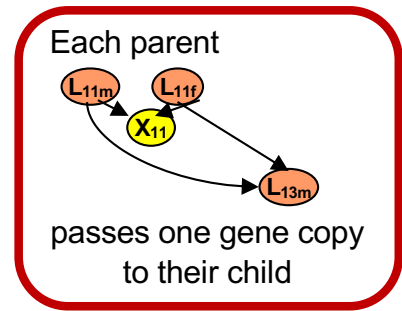
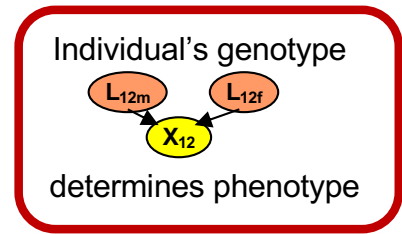
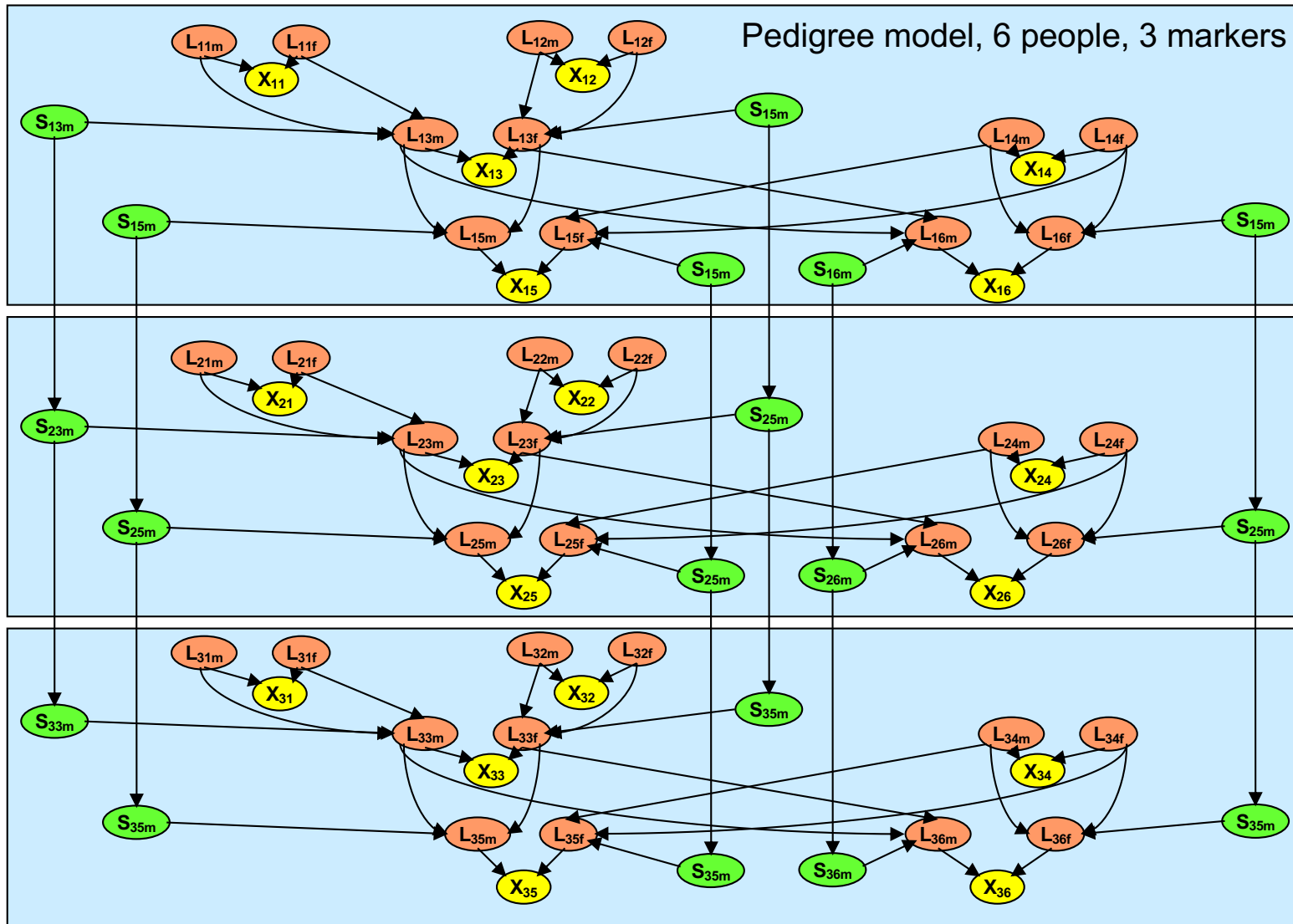
Combine domain knowledge with learning and data

- Domain knowledge
  - Problem structure: potential causation or interactions
  - Model parameters: known dependency mechanisms, probabilities
- Learning and data
  - Identify (in)dependence from data
  - Estimate model parameters to explain observations
- Scalable and Composable
  - Models over large systems may be composed of smaller parts
  - Efficient representation allows learning from relatively few data



# Ex: Model composability

Large models may be defined by many repeated, interrelated structures

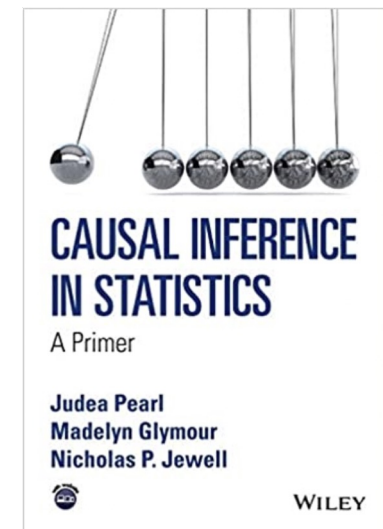
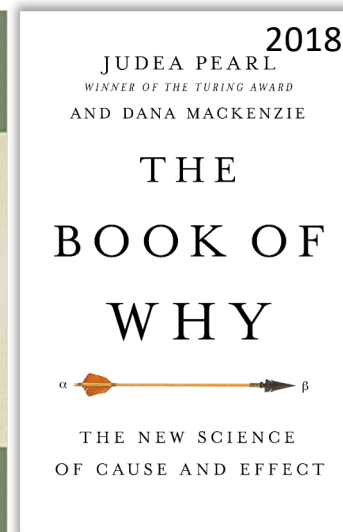
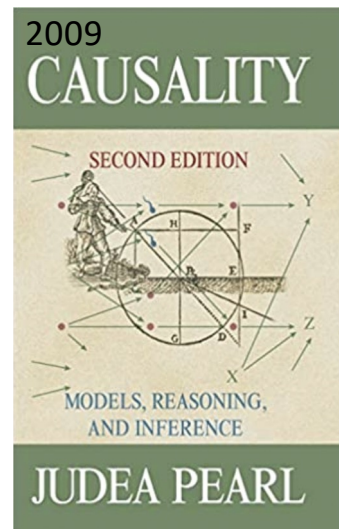
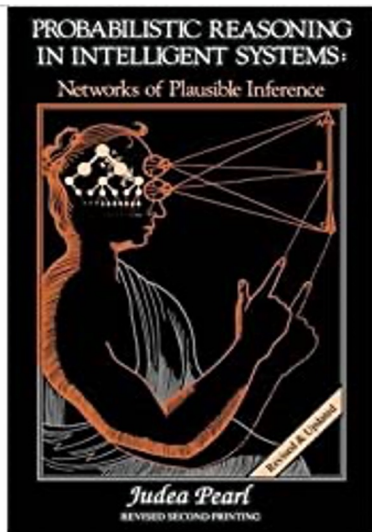
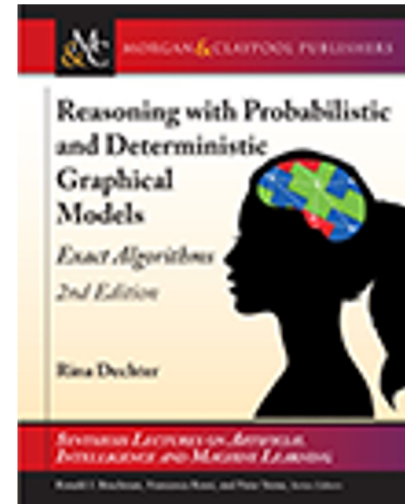
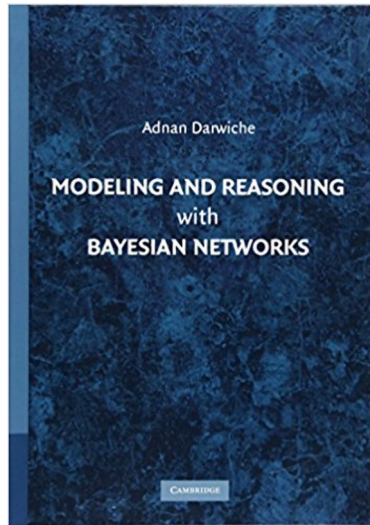


# Domains for graphical models

- Natural Language processing
  - Information extraction, semantic parsing, translation, topic models, ...
- Computer vision
  - Object recognition, scene analysis, segmentation, tracking, ...
- Computational biology
  - Pedigree analysis, protein folding and binding, sequence matching, ...
- Networks
  - Webpage link analysis, social networks, communications, citations, ....
- Robotics
  - Planning & decision making



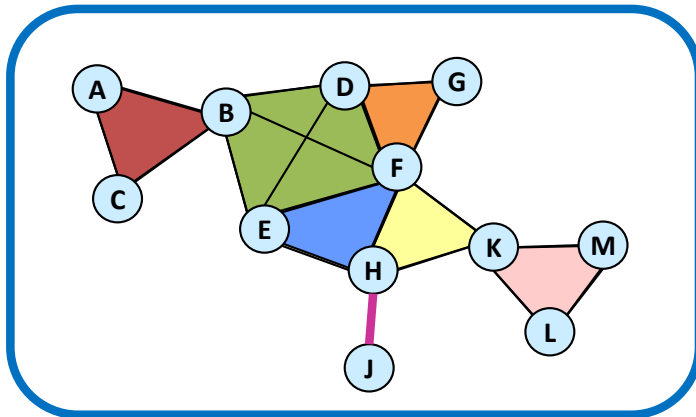
# Books on Graphical Models & Causality



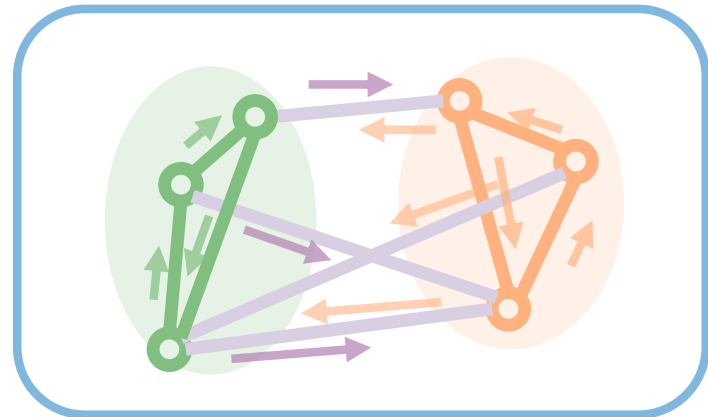
(intervention & counterfactuals)

# Outline of Lectures

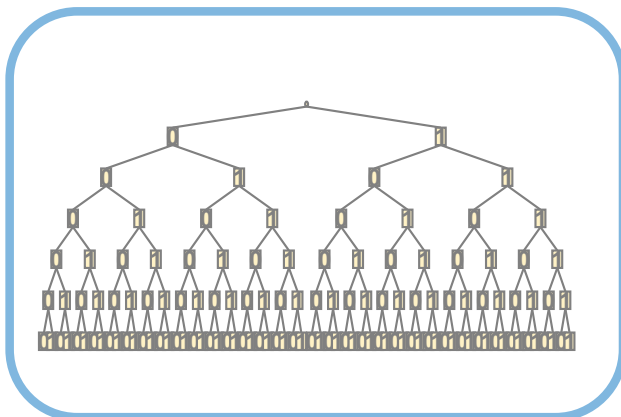
Class 1: Introduction & Inference



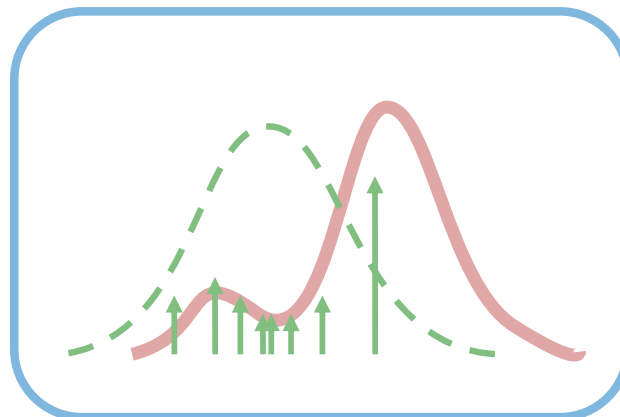
Class 2: Bounds & Variational Methods



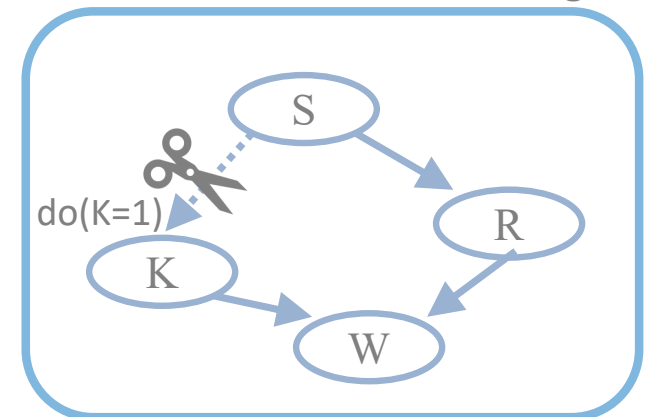
Class 3: Search Methods



Class 4: Monte Carlo Methods



Class 5: Causal Reasoning



# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

**Variable Elimination**

Tree Decomposition

Variable Orderings

Learning from Data

# Inference

- Take information (model, observations)
  - Implicitly defines a joint / conditional joint distribution
- Inference: what does that information mean?
  - How do other probabilities change? (Conditional) marginals
  - How likely was our observation? Probability of evidence
  - Predict the value of the other variables? MPE / MAP estimates
- Tasks

“summation”

$$Z = \sum_x \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$$

$$p(X_i = x_i) = Z^{-1} \sum_{x \sim x_i} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$$

“maximization”

$$x^* = \arg \max_x \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$$

$$f^* = f(x^*) = \max_x \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$$

# A simple example

- Suppose we have two factors:  $f(X) = f_{12}(X_1, X_2) f_{23}(X_2, X_3)$
- To compute the partition function (sum):

$$Z = \sum_{x_1, x_2, x_3} f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = f(0, 0, 0) + f(0, 0, 1) + f(0, 0, 2) + f(0, 1, 0) + \dots \\ + f(1, 0, 0) + f(1, 0, 1) + f(1, 0, 2) + f(1, 1, 0) + \dots$$

- Use the factorization of  $f(x)$ :

$$Z = f_{12}(0, 0) f_{23}(0, 0) + f_{12}(0, 0) f_{23}(0, 1) + f_{12}(0, 0) f_{23}(0, 2) + f_{12}(0, 1) f_{23}(1, 0) + \dots \\ + f_{12}(1, 0) f_{23}(0, 0) + f_{12}(1, 0) f_{23}(0, 1) + f_{12}(1, 0) f_{23}(0, 2) + f_{12}(1, 1) f_{23}(1, 0) + \dots$$

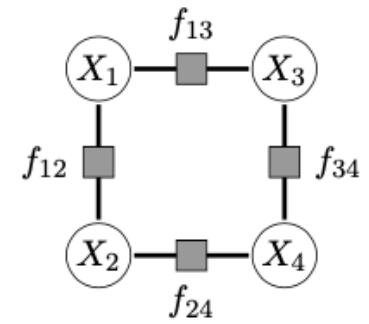
and apply the distributive rule:

$$= f_{12}(0, 0) \left( f_{23}(0, 0) + f_{23}(0, 1) + f_{23}(0, 2) \right) + f_{12}(0, 1) \left( f_{23}(1, 0) + \dots \right) \\ + f_{12}(1, 0) \left( f_{23}(0, 0) + f_{23}(0, 1) + f_{23}(0, 2) \right) + f_{12}(1, 1) \left( f_{23}(1, 0) + \dots \right)$$

We can pre-compute and re-use these terms in the sum!

$$\lambda(x_2) = \left( \sum_{x_3} f_{23}(x_2, x_3) \right) \quad Z = \sum_{x_1, x_2} f_{12}(x_1, x_2) \lambda(x_2)$$

# Variable Elimination



Product of factors:

$$p(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = \frac{1}{Z} f_{12}(X_1, X_2) f_{13}(X_1, X_3) f_{24}(X_2, X_4) f_{34}(X_3, X_4).$$

Compute:

$$Z = \sum_{x_4} \sum_{x_3} \sum_{x_2} \sum_{x_1} f_{34}(x_3, x_4) f_{24}(x_2, x_4) f_{12}(x_1, x_2) f_{13}(x_1, x_3),$$

Collect terms involving  $x_1$ , then  $x_2$ , and so on:

$$Z = \sum_{x_4} \sum_{x_3} f_{34}(x_3, x_4) \sum_{x_2} f_{24}(x_2, x_4) \sum_{x_1} f_{12}(x_1, x_2) f_{13}(x_1, x_3),$$

“Bucket elimination”:

$$\lambda_1(x_2, x_3) = \sum_{x_1} f_{12}(x_1, x_2) f_{13}(x_1, x_3),$$

Collect all factors with  $x_1$  in a “bucket”

$$\lambda_2(x_3, x_4) = \sum_{x_2} f_{24}(x_2, x_4) \lambda_1(x_2, x_3),$$

Collect all remaining factors with  $x_2$

$$\lambda_3(x_4) = \sum_{x_3} f_{34}(x_3, x_4) \lambda_2(x_3, x_4),$$

Place intermediate calculations in bucket of their earliest argument

$$Z = \sum_{x_4} \lambda_3(x_4),$$

# Combination of factors

A	B	f(A,B)
b	b	0.4
b	g	0.1
g	b	0
g	g	0.5

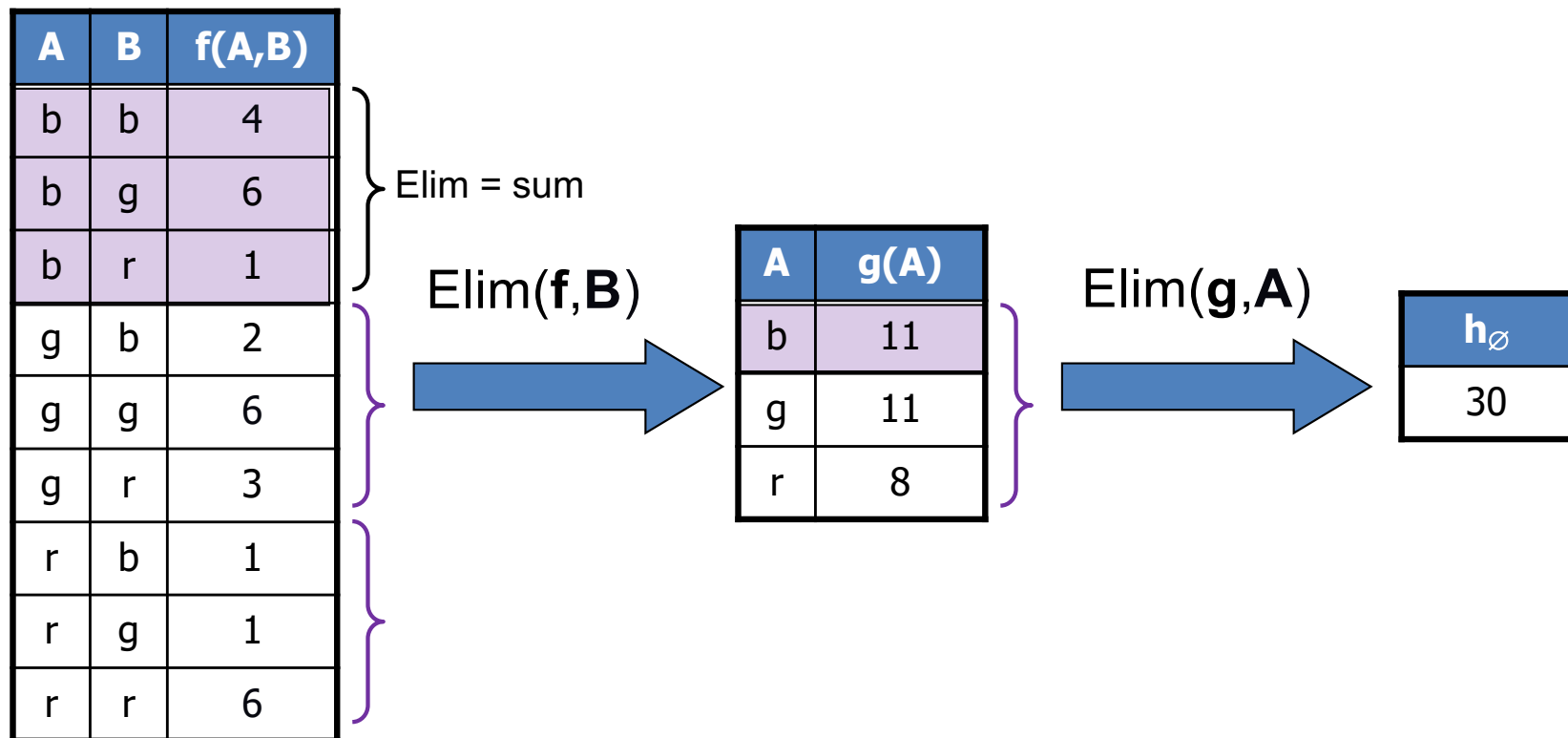


A	B	C	f(A,B,C)
b	b	b	0.1
b	b	g	0
b	g	b	0
b	g	g	0.08
g	b	b	0
g	b	g	0
g	g	b	0
g	g	g	0.4

B	C	f(B,C)
b	b	0.2
b	g	0
g	b	0
g	g	0.8

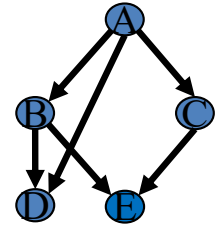
= 0.1 x 0.8

# Elimination in a factor

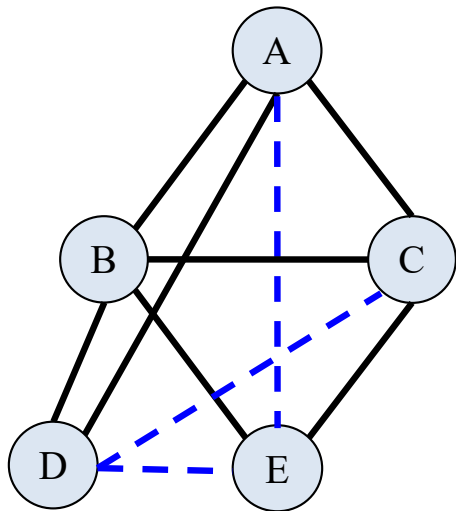




# Belief updating



- $p(X \mid \text{Evidence}) = ?$



“primal” graph

$$\begin{aligned}
 & p(A \mid E = 0) \\
 & \propto p(A, E = 0) \\
 & = \sum_{e,d,c,b} p(A) p(b \mid A) p(c \mid A) p(d \mid b, A) p(e \mid b, c) \mathbb{1}[e = 0]
 \end{aligned}$$

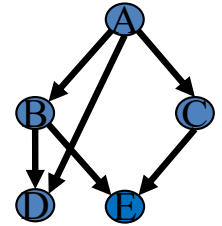
$$p(A) \sum_e \sum_d \sum_c p(c \mid A) \mathbb{1}[e = 0] \sum_b p(b \mid A) p(d \mid b, A) p(e \mid b, c)$$

$\lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(a, d, c, e)$

Variable Elimination

# Bucket elimination

Algorithm *BE-bel* [Dechter 1996]



$$p(A|E=0) = \alpha \sum_{e,d,c,b} p(A) p(b|A) p(c|A) p(d|A,b) p(e|b,c) \mathbb{1}[e=0]$$

$\sum_b \prod$  ← Elimination & combination operators

bucket B:

$$p(b|A) p(d|b, A) p(e|b, c)$$

bucket C:

$$p(c|A) \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(A, d, c, e)$$

bucket D:

$$\lambda_{C \rightarrow D}(A, d, e)$$

bucket E:

$$\mathbb{1}[E=0] \lambda_{D \rightarrow E}(A, e)$$

bucket A:

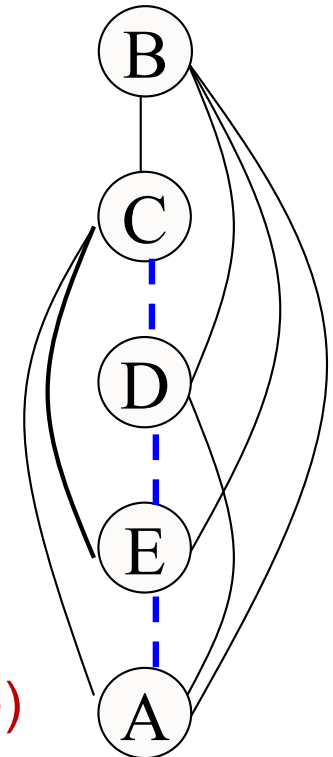
$$p(A) \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(A)$$

$$p(E=0)$$

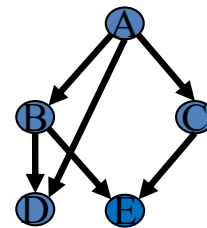
$$p(A|E=0) = p(A, E=0) / p(E=0)$$

Elimination & combination operators

$W^*=4$   
"induced width"  
(max clique size)



# Bucket elimination



Algorithm *BE-bel* [Dechter 1996]

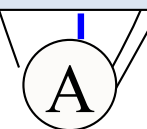
$$p(A|E = 0) = \alpha \sum_{e,d,c,b} p(A) p(b|A) p(c|A) p(d|A, b) p(e|b, c) \mathbb{1}[e = 0]$$

$\sum_b \prod$  ← Elimination & combination operators

***Time and space exponential in the induced-width / treewidth***

bucket A:  $p(A)$   $\lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(A)$

induced width  
(max clique size)



$$p(E = 0)$$

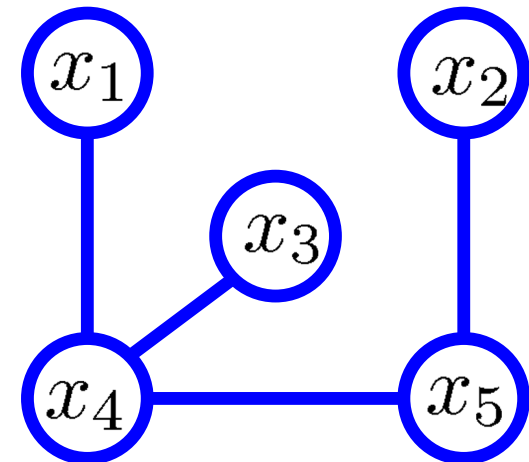
$$p(A|E = 0) = p(A, E = 0) / p(E = 0)$$

# Variable elimination in trees

*(Use distributive rule to calculate efficiently:)*

$$\max_{x_1 \dots x_5} f_{14} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45}$$

$$= \max_{x_2 \dots x_5} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45} \left[ \max_{x_1} f_{14} \right]$$



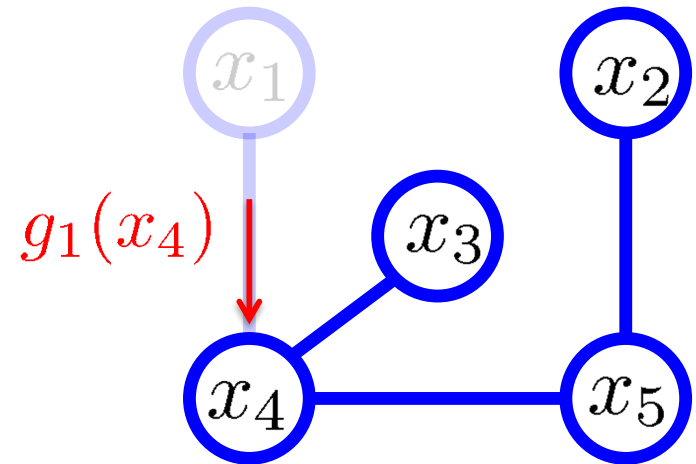
# Variable elimination in trees

(Use distributive rule to calculate efficiently:)

$$\max_{x_1 \dots x_5} f_{14} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45}$$

$$= \max_{x_2 \dots x_5} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45} \left[ \max_{x_1} f_{14} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_3 \dots x_5} f_{34} f_{45} g_1(x_4) \left[ \max_{x_2} f_{25} \right]$$



# Variable elimination in trees

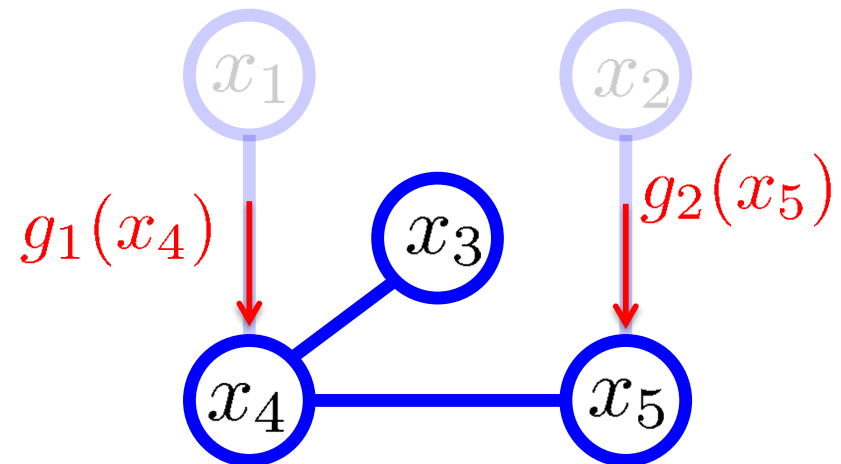
(Use distributive rule to calculate efficiently:)

$$\max_{x_1 \dots x_5} f_{14} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45}$$

$$= \max_{x_2 \dots x_5} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45} \left[ \max_{x_1} f_{14} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_3 \dots x_5} f_{34} f_{45} g_1(x_4) \left[ \max_{x_2} f_{25} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_4 \dots x_5} f_{45} g_1(x_4) g_2(x_5) \left[ \max_{x_3} f_{34} \right]$$



# Variable elimination in trees

(Use distributive rule to calculate efficiently:)

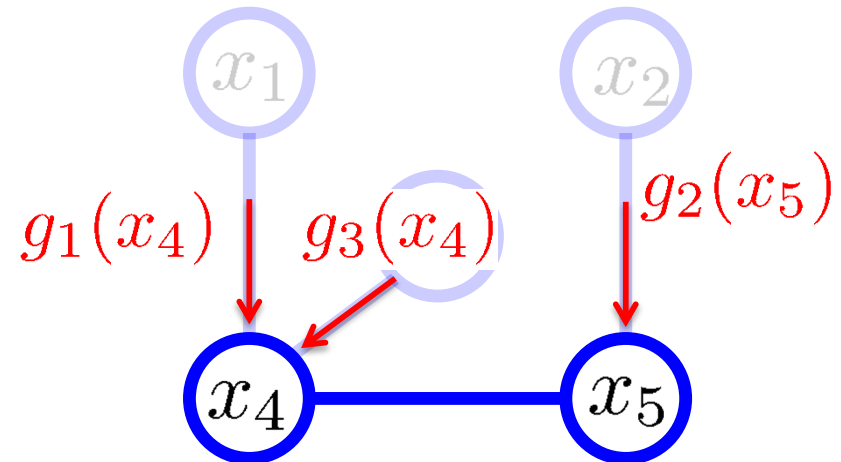
$$\max_{x_1 \dots x_5} f_{14} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45}$$

$$= \max_{x_2 \dots x_5} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45} \left[ \max_{x_1} f_{14} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_3 \dots x_5} f_{34} f_{45} g_1(x_4) \left[ \max_{x_2} f_{25} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_4 \dots x_5} f_{45} g_1(x_4) g_2(x_5) \left[ \max_{x_3} f_{34} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_5} g_2(x_5) \left[ \max_{x_4} f_{45} g_1(x_4) g_3(x_4) \right]$$



# Variable elimination in trees

(Use distributive rule to calculate efficiently:)

$$\max_{x_1 \dots x_5} f_{14} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45}$$

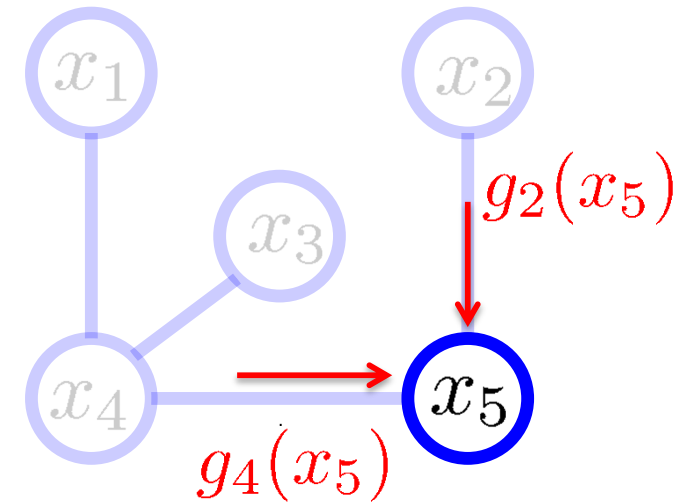
$$= \max_{x_2 \dots x_5} f_{25} f_{34} f_{45} \left[ \max_{x_1} f_{14} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_3 \dots x_5} f_{34} f_{45} g_1(x_4) \left[ \max_{x_2} f_{25} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_4 \dots x_5} f_{45} g_1(x_4) g_2(x_5) \left[ \max_{x_3} f_{34} \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_5} g_2(x_5) \left[ \max_{x_4} f_{45} g_1(x_4) g_3(x_4) \right]$$

$$= \max_{x_5} g_2(x_5) g_4(x_5)$$



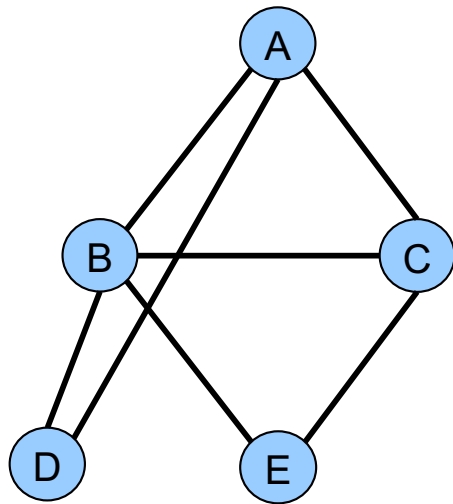
## For trees:

Efficient elimination order (leaves to root);  
computational complexity same as model size

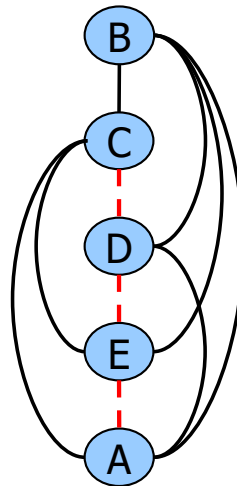


# Induced Width

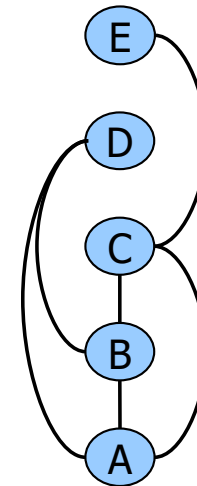
- **Width** is the max number of parents in the ordered graph
- **Induced-width** is the width of the induced ordered graph: recursively connecting parents going from last node to first.
- **Induced-width  $w^*(d)$**  is the max induced-width over all nodes in ordering  $d$
- **Induced-width of a graph,  $w^*$**  is the min  $w^*(d)$  over all orderings  $d$



primal graph



$$w^*(d_1) = 4$$



$$w^*(d_2) = 2$$

# Complexity of Bucket Elimination

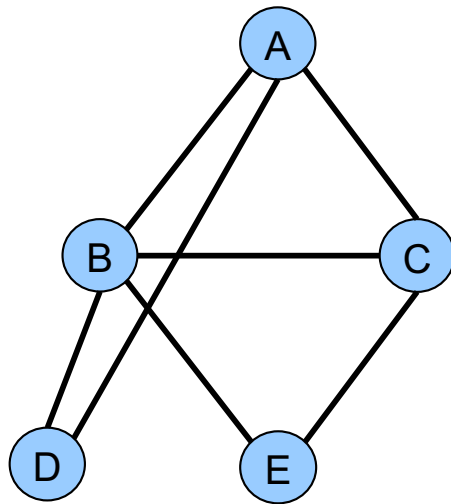
Bucket-Elimination is **time** and **space**

$$O(r \exp(w_d^*))$$

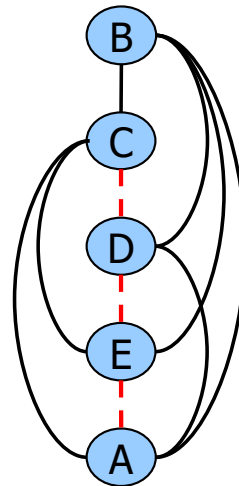
$w_d^*$ : the induced width of the primal graph along ordering  $d$

$r$  = number of functions

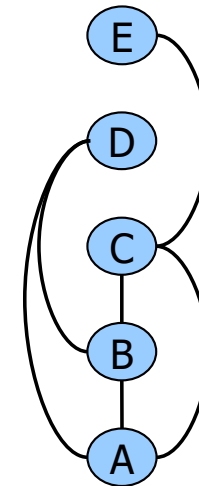
The effect of the ordering:



primal graph



$$w^*(d_1) = 4$$

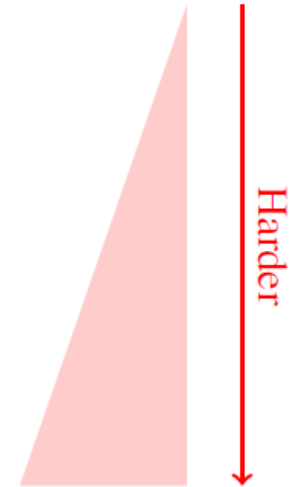


$$w^*(d_2) = 2$$

Finding smallest induced-width is hard!

# Types of queries

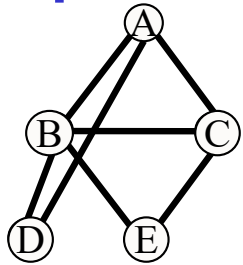
Max-Inference:	$f(x^*) = \max_x \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$
Sum-Inference: (e.g., causal effects)	$Z = \sum_x \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$
Mixed-Inference (MMAP): (optimal prediction)	$f_M(x_M^*) = \max_{x_M} \sum_{x_S} \prod_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(x_{\alpha})$
Mixed-Inference (MEU): (e.g., decisions & planning)	$\text{MEU} = \max_{D_1, \dots, D_m} \sum_{X_1, \dots, X_n} \left( \prod_{P_i \in P} P_i \right) \times \left( \sum_{r_i \in R} r_i \right)$



- **NP-hard**: exponentially many terms
- Difficulty (in part) due to restricted elimination orderings
- We will focus on **approximation** algorithms
  - **Anytime**: very fast & very approximate → Slower & more accurate

# Finding MPE/MAP

Algorithm BE-mpe (Dechter 1996, Bertele and Briochi,



$$\text{MPE} = \max_{a,e,d,c,b} p(a) p(c|a) p(b|a) p(d|b,a) p(e|b,c)$$

$$= \max_b p(b|a) \cdot p(d|b, a) \cdot p(e|b, c)$$

bucket B:

$$\max_x \prod p(b|a) p(d|b, a) p(e|b, c)$$

bucket C:

$$p(c|a) \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(a, d, c, e)$$

bucket D:

$$\lambda_{C \rightarrow D}(a, d, e)$$

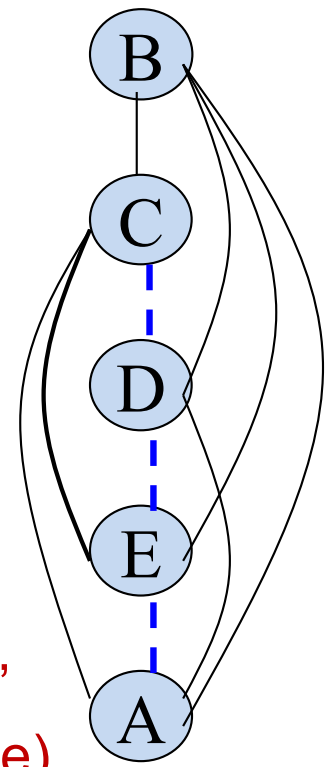
bucket E:

$$\mathbb{1}[e = 0] \lambda_{D \rightarrow E}(a, e)$$

bucket A:

$$p(a) \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(a)$$

OPT



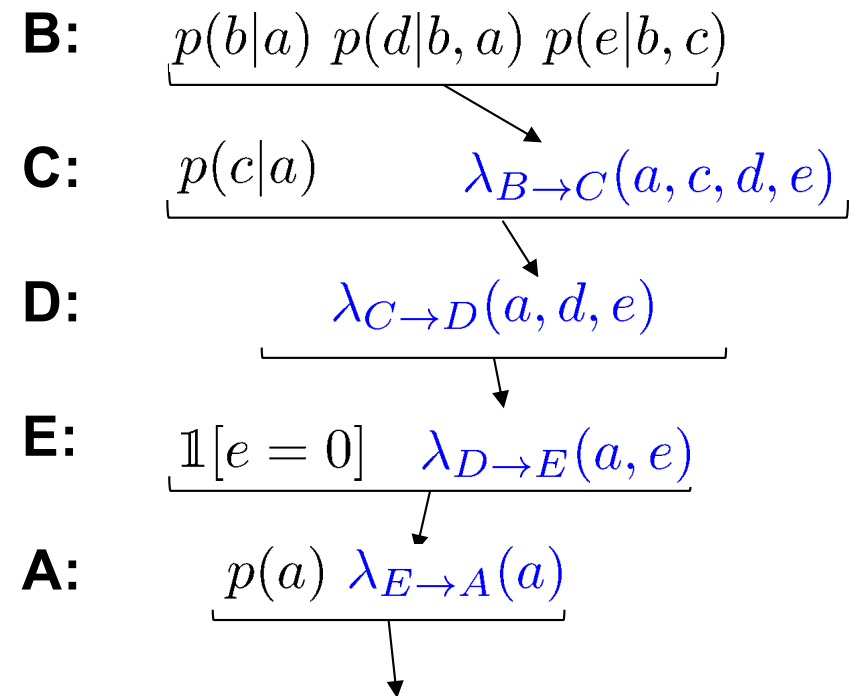
$W^*=4$   
"induced width"  
(max clique size)

# Generating the optimal assignment

- Given BE messages, select optimum config in reverse order

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}^* &= \arg \max_b p(b|a^*) p(d^*|b, a^*) p(e^*|b, c^*) \\ \mathbf{c}^* &= \arg \max_c p(c|a^*) \lambda_{B \rightarrow C}(a^*, c, d^*, e^*) \\ \mathbf{d}^* &= \arg \max_d \lambda_{C \rightarrow D}(a^*, d, e^*) \\ \mathbf{e}^* &= \arg \max_e \mathbb{1}[e = 0] \lambda_{D \rightarrow E}(a^*, e) \\ \mathbf{a}^* &= \arg \max_a p(a) \cdot \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(a) \end{aligned}$$

**Return optimal configuration  $(\mathbf{a}^*, \mathbf{b}^*, \mathbf{c}^*, \mathbf{d}^*, \mathbf{e}^*)$**



**OPT = optimal value**

# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

**Tree Decompositions**

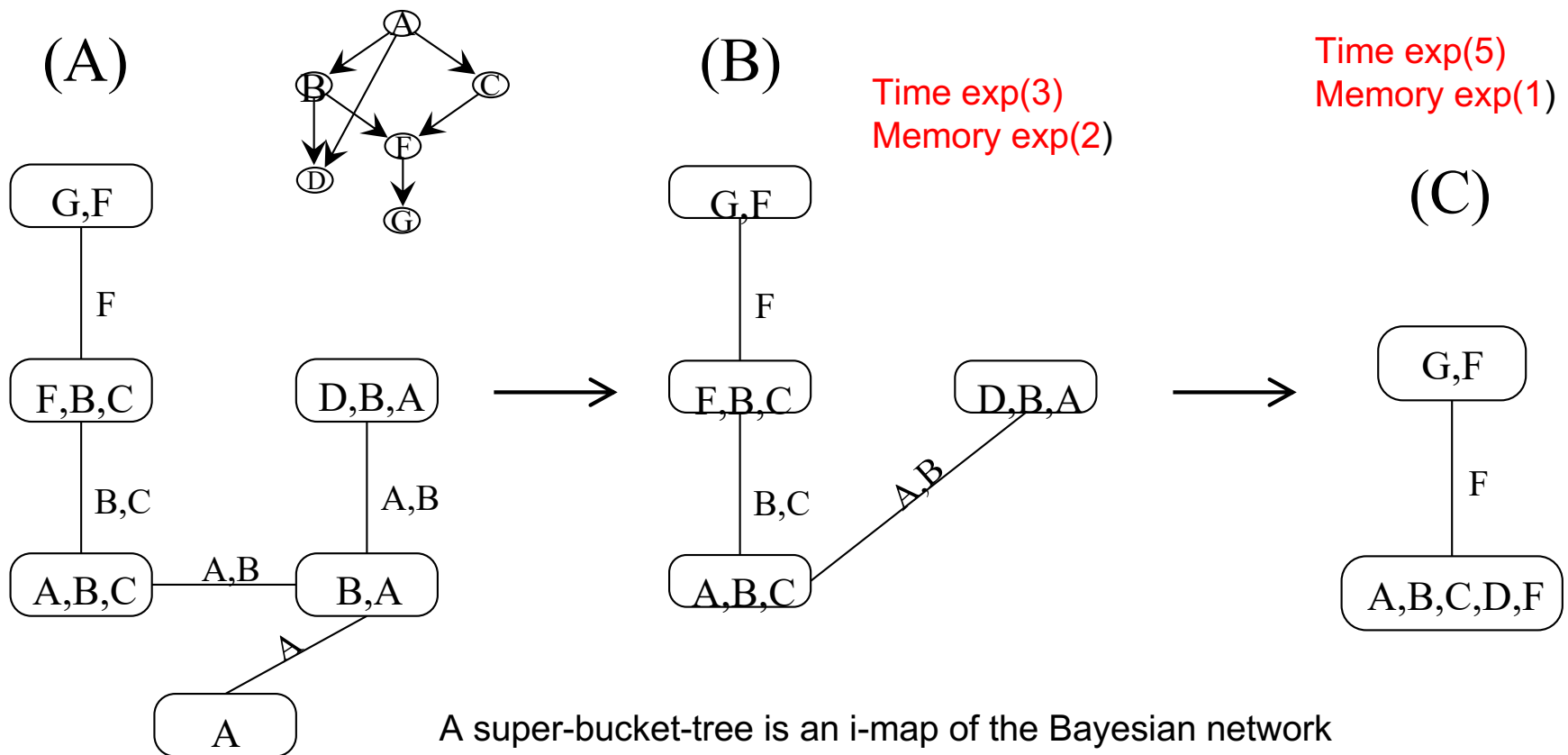
Variable Orderings

Learning from Data



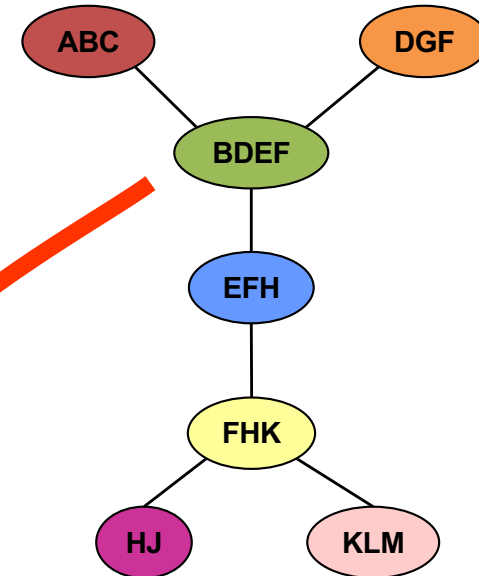
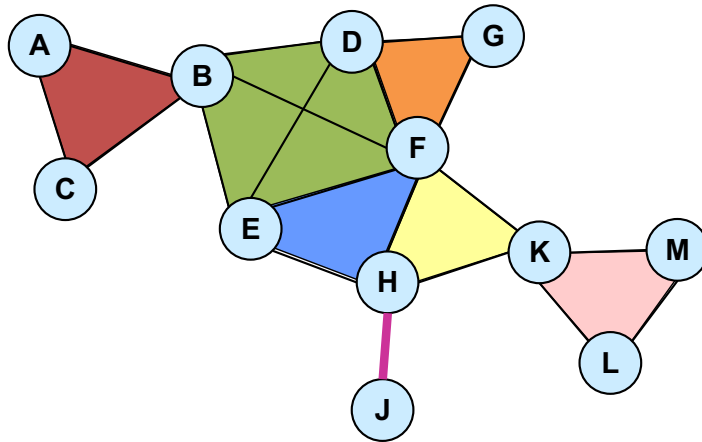
# From Buckets to Clusters

- Merge non-maximal buckets into maximal clusters.
- Connect clusters into a tree: each cluster to one with which it shares a largest subset of variables.
- Separators are variable- intersection on adjacent clusters.





# The General Tree-Decomposition



Inference algorithm:

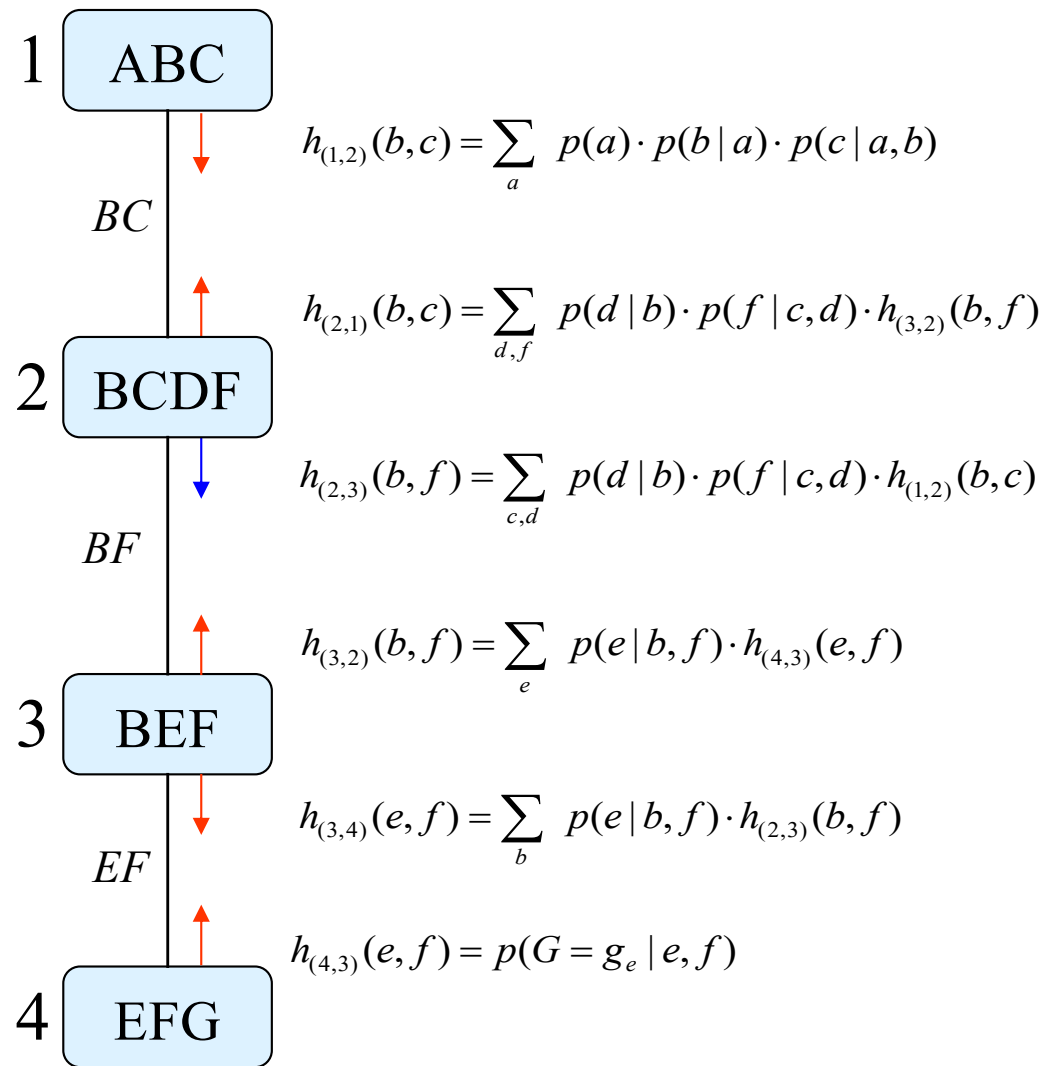
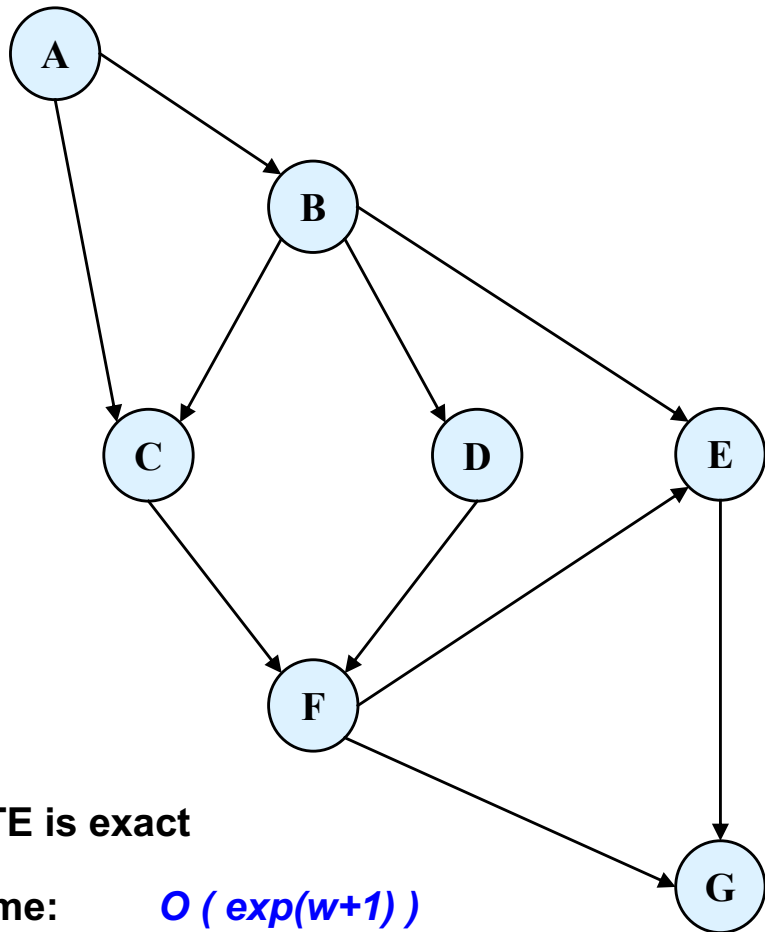
Time:  $\exp(\text{tree-width})$

Space:  $\exp(\text{tree-width})$

$$\text{treewidth} = 4 - 1 = 3$$

$$\text{treewidth} = (\text{maximum cluster size}) - 1$$

# Cluster-Tree Elimination (CTE), or Join-tree message-passing



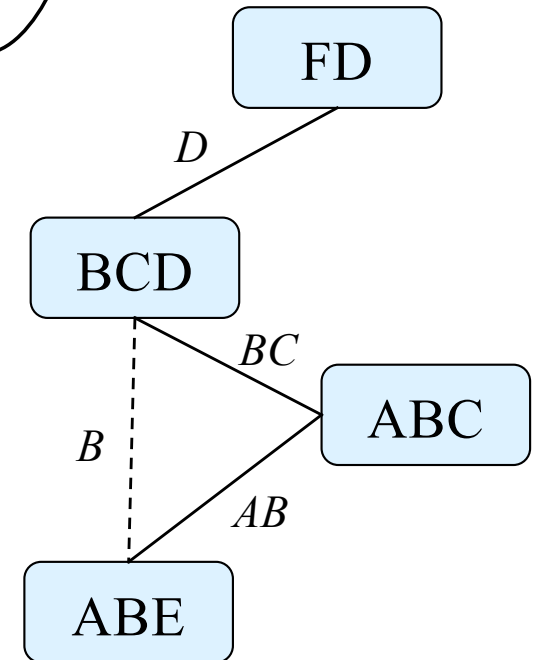
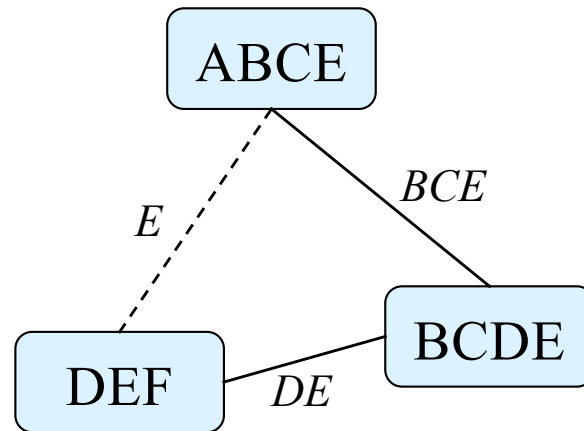
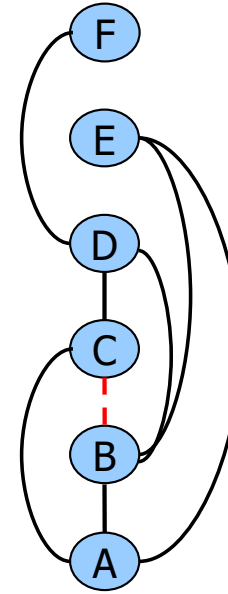
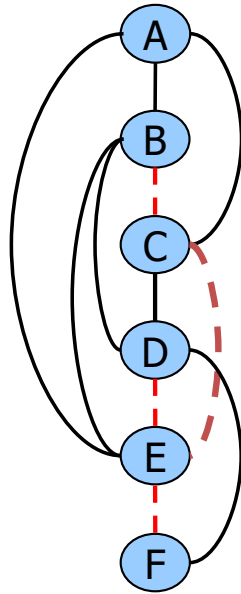
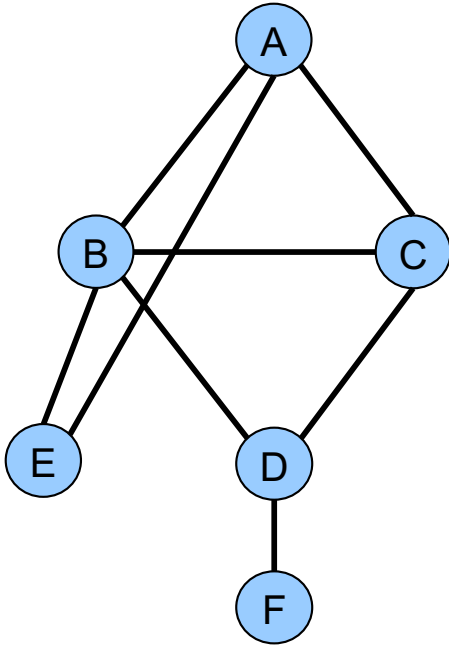
CTE is exact

Time:  $O(\exp(w+1))$

Space:  $O(\exp(sep))$

For each cluster  $P(X|e)$  is computed, also  $P(e)$

# Examples of (Join)-Trees Construction



# Tree and Hypertree Decompositions

A *tree decomposition* for a belief network  $BN = \langle X, D, G, P \rangle$  is a triple  $\langle T, \chi, \psi \rangle$ , where  $T = (V, E)$  is a tree and  $\chi$  and  $\psi$  are labeling functions, associating with each vertex  $v \in V$  two sets,  $\chi(v) \subseteq X$  and  $\psi(v) \subseteq P$  satisfying :

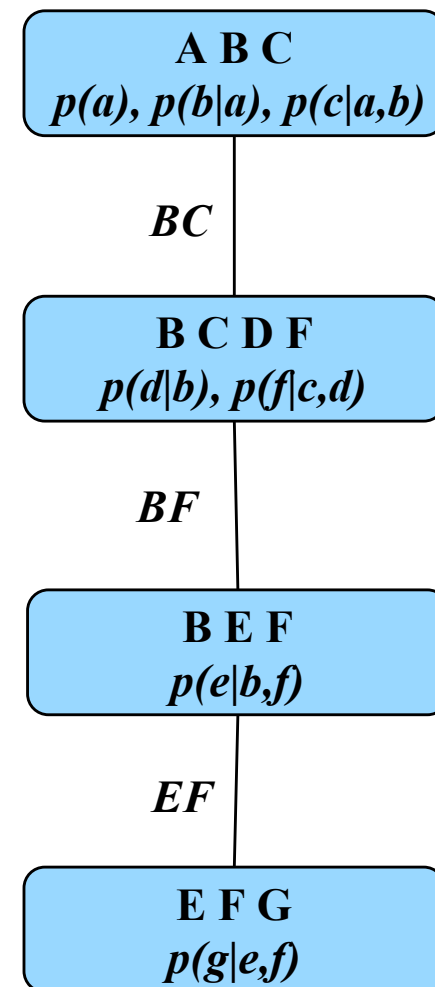
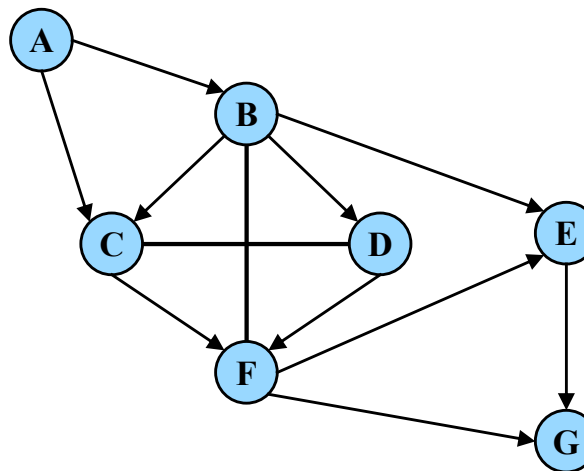
1. For each function  $p_i \in P$  there is exactly one vertex such that

$$p_i \in \psi(v) \text{ and } scope(p_i) \subseteq \chi(v)$$

2. For each variable  $X_i \in X$  the set  $\{v \in V | X_i \in \chi(v)\}$  forms a connected subtree (running intersection property)

Connectedness, or  
Running intersection property

Treewidth ( $w$ ) = 3  
Hyper tree-width ( $hw$ ) = 2



Tree decomposition

# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

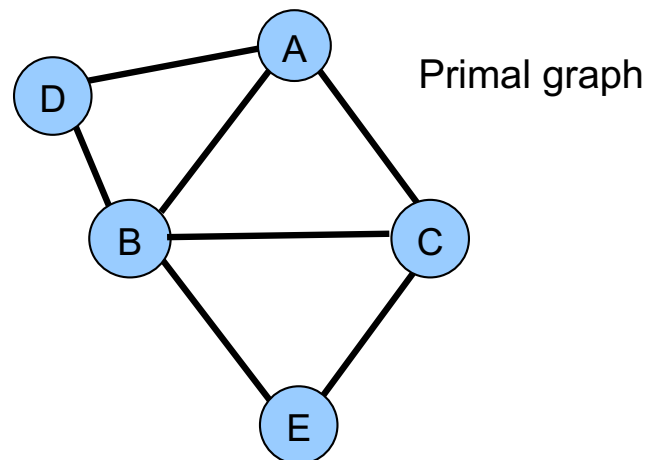
Tree Decompositions

**Variable Orderings**

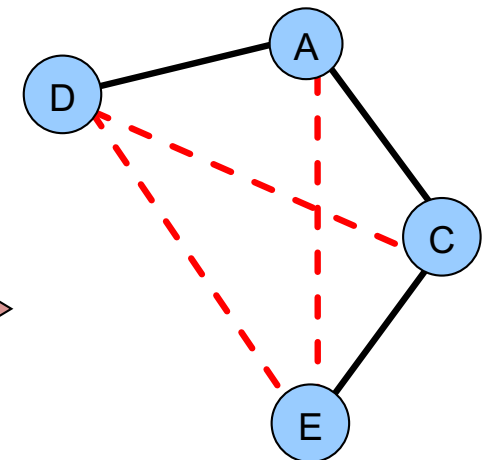
Learning from Data

# Variable ordering heuristics

- What makes a good order?
  - Low induced width
  - Elimination creates a function over neighbors
- Finding the best order is hard (NP-complete!)
  - But we can do well with simple heuristics
    - Min-induced-width, Min-Fill, ...
  - Anytime algorithms
    - Search-based [Gogate & Dechter 2003]
    - Stochastic (CVO) [Kask, Gelfand & Dechter 2010]



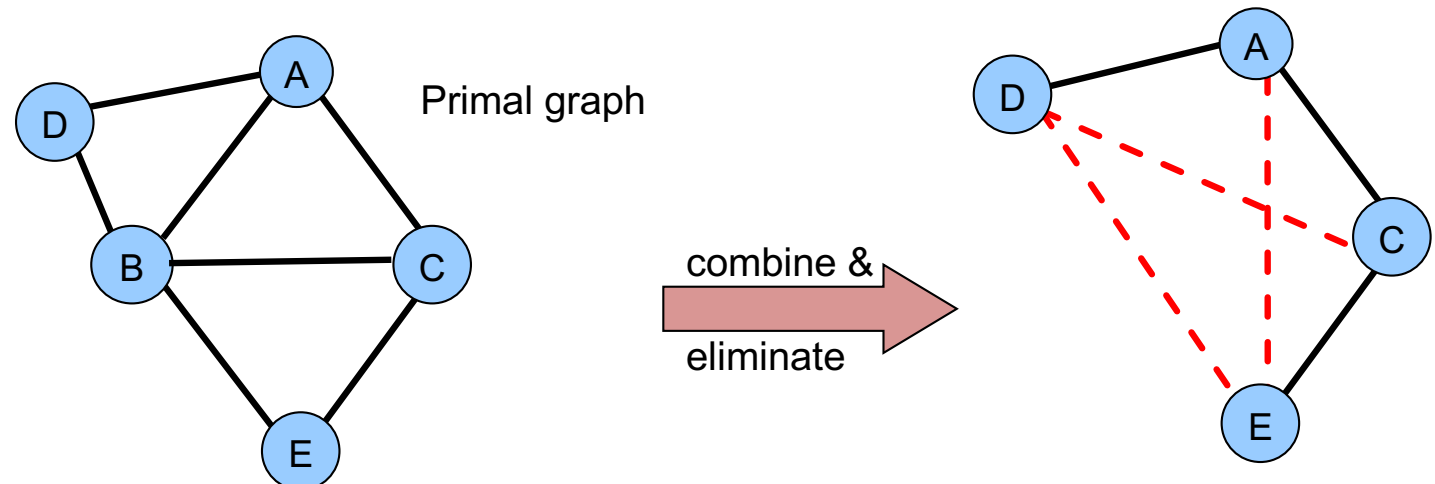
combine &  
eliminate



# Variable ordering heuristics

- Min (induced) width heuristic
  1. for  $i=1$  to  $n$  (# of variables)
  2. Select a node  $X_i$  with smallest degree as next eliminated
  3. Connect  $X_i$ 's neighbors:
  4.  $E = E + \{ (X_i, X_k) : (X_i, X_j) \text{ and } (X_i, X_k) \text{ in } E \}$
  5. Remove  $X_i$  from the graph:  $V = V - \{X_i\}$
  6. end

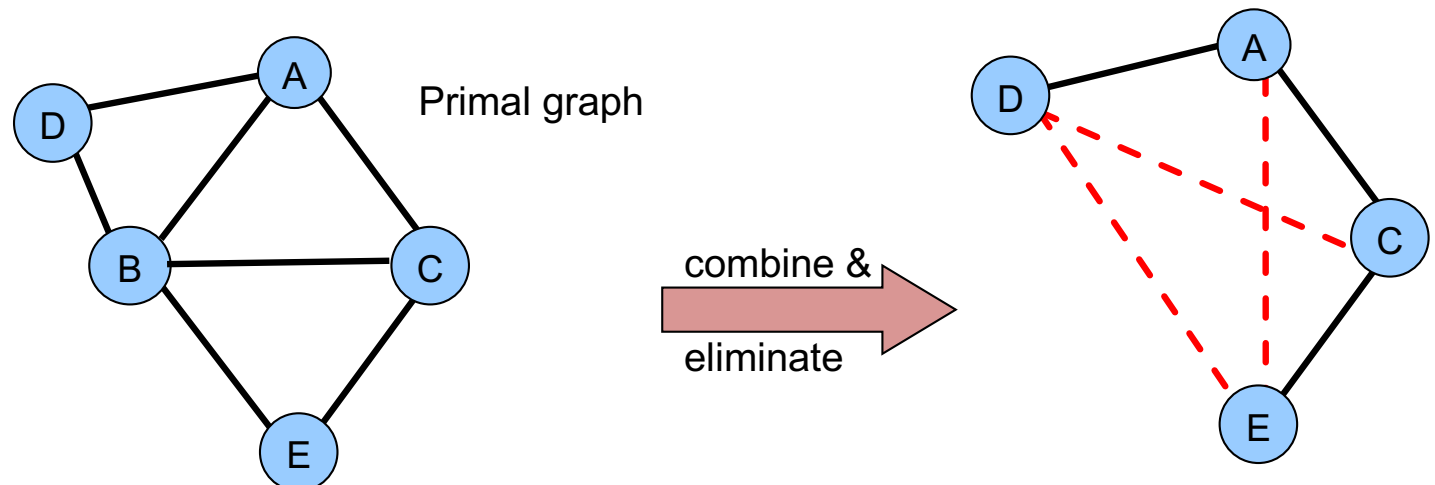
*("Weighted" version: weight edges by domain size)*



# Variable ordering heuristics

- Min fill heuristic
  1. for  $i=1$  to  $n$  (# of variables)
  2. Select a node  $X_i$  with smallest “fill edges” as next eliminated
  3. Connect  $X_i$ 's neighbors:
  4.  $E = E + \{ (X_j, X_k) : (X_i, X_j) \text{ and } (X_i, X_k) \text{ in } E \}$
  5. Remove  $X_i$  from the graph:  $V = V - \{X_i\}$
  6. end

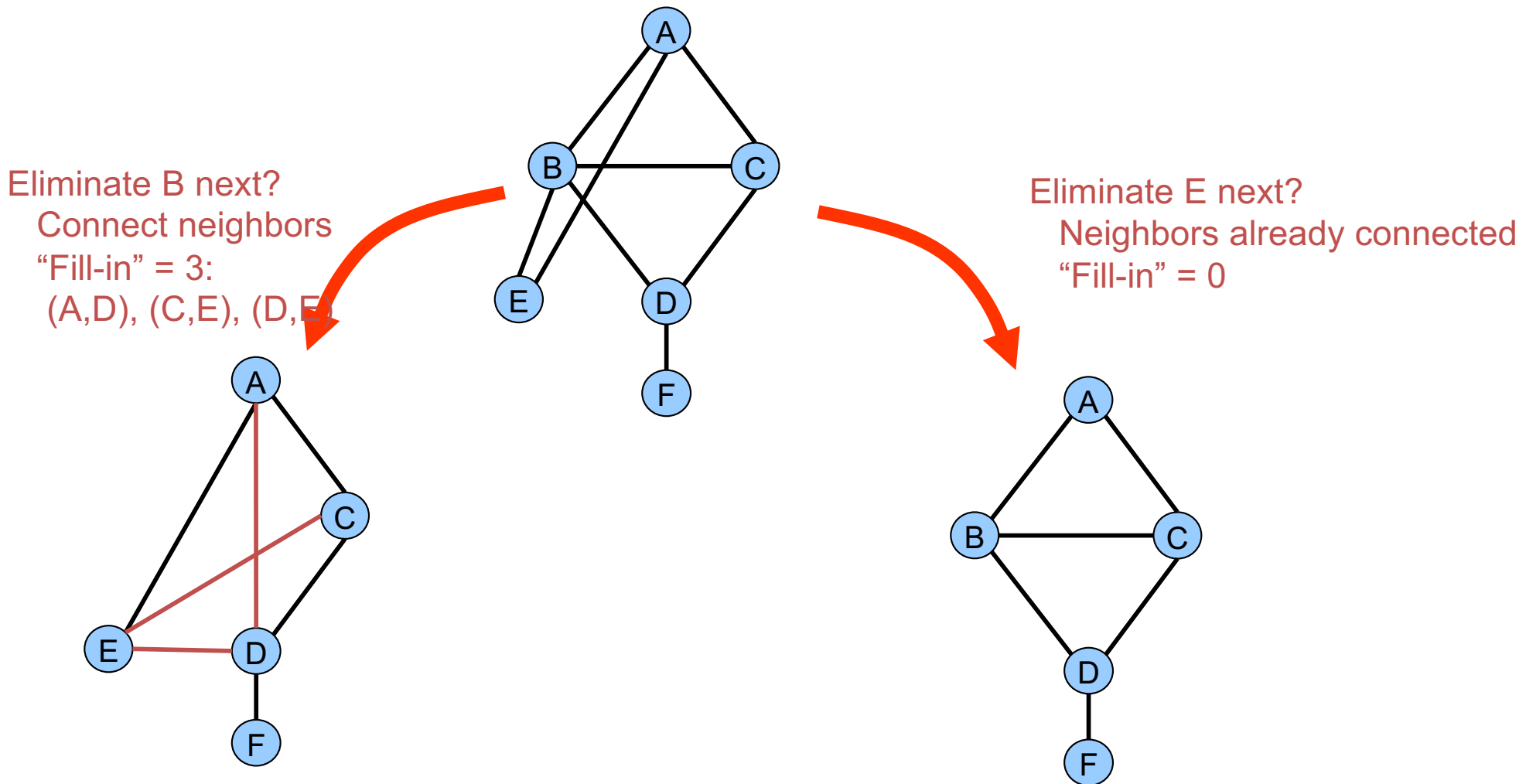
(“Weighted” version: weight edges by domain size)





# Min-Fill Heuristic

- Select the variable that creates the fewest “fill-in” edges



# Outline

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

Tree Decompositions

Variable Orderings

Learning from Data

# Learning Bayesian networks

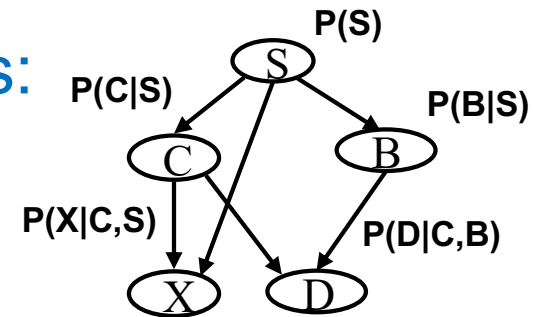
- Known graph? **learn parameters:**

**Complete data**

- parameter estimation (ML, MAP, ...)

**Incomplete data**

- parameter optimization (gradient, EM, ...)



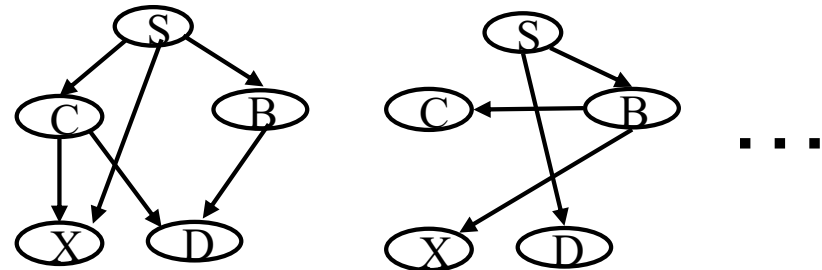
- Unknown graph? **learn graph and parameters**

**Complete data**

- search over graphs  
(score-based, constraint-based)

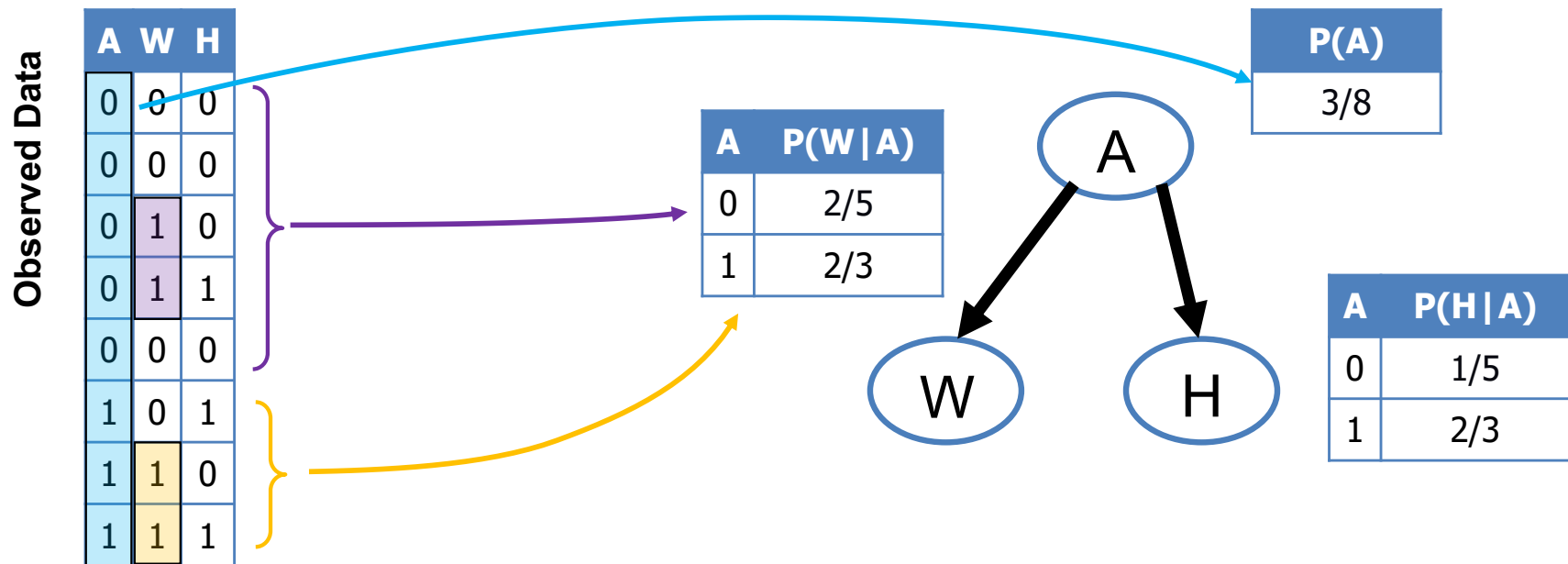
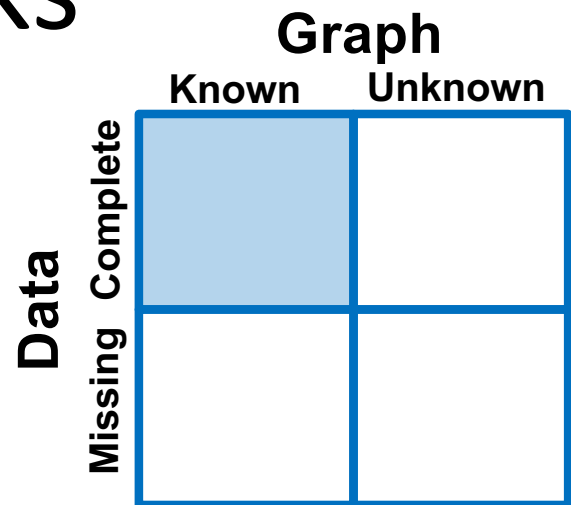
**Incomplete data**

- iterative optimization & search (structural EM, etc.)



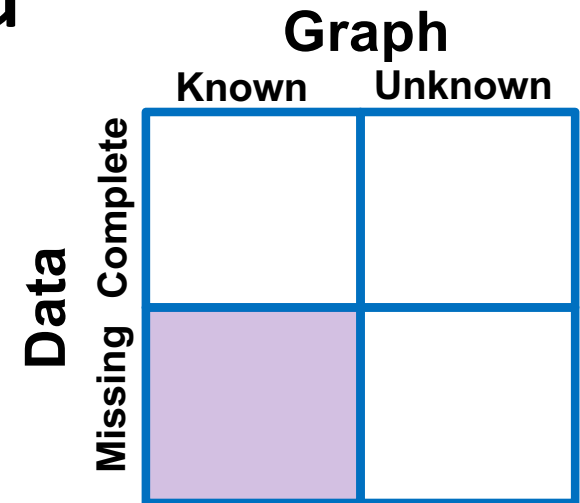
# Learning Bayesian networks

- Maximum Likelihood estimation
  - Select model that makes the data most probable
- For discrete  $X_i$  & no shared parameters
  - ML estimates are empirical probabilities



# Learning with missing data

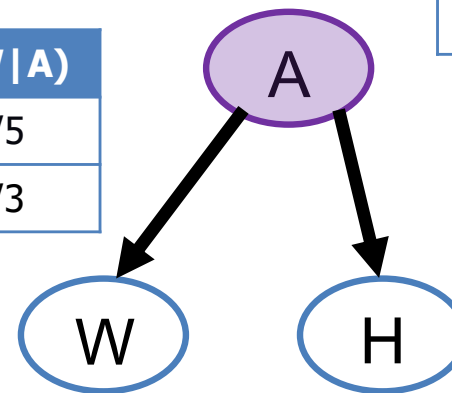
- Latent / hidden variables
  - Value is never observed
  - No unique model (e.g., symmetry)
  - No closed form solution; iterative ML
- More general missing values?
  - May depend on the reason for missingness!



**Observed Data**

A	W	H
?	0	0
?	0	0
?	1	0
?	1	1
?	0	0
?	0	1
?	1	0
?	1	1

A	P(W A)
0	2/5
1	2/3



P(A)
3/8

A	P(H A)
0	1/5
1	2/3

# Learning with missing data

**Non-decomposable** marginal likelihood (hidden nodes)

Initial parameters

**Current model**  
**( $G, \Theta$ )**

**Expectation**  
Inference:  
 $P(S|X=0,D=1,C=0,B=1)$

**Data**

S	X	D	C	B
<?>	0	1	0	1
<1	1	?>	0	1
<0	0	0	?>	?>
<?>	?>	0	?>	1

**Expected counts**

S	X	D	C	B
1	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1

**Maximization**  
Update parameters  
(ML, MAP)

**EM-algorithm:**  
iterate until convergence

# Summary

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Graphical Models

Inference Tasks

Variable Elimination

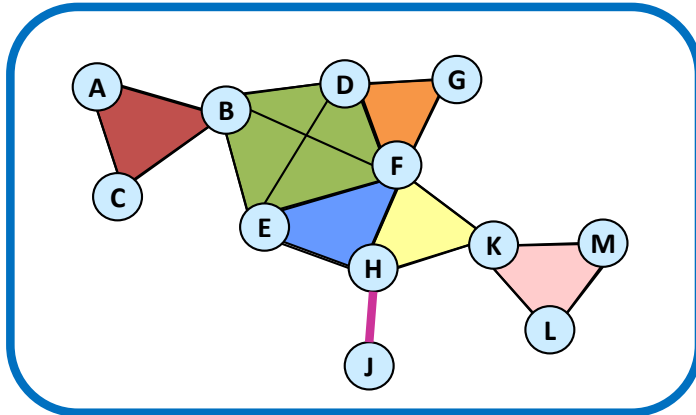
Tree Decomposition

Variable Orderings

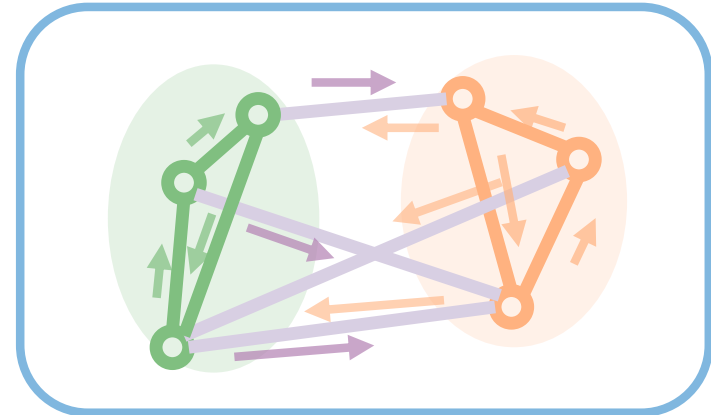
Learning from Data

# Outline of Lectures

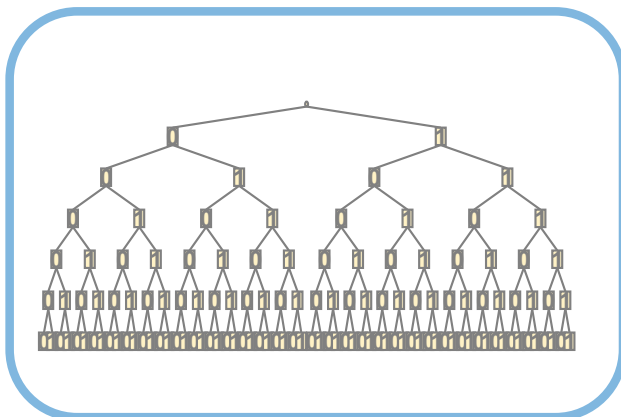
Class 1: Introduction & Inference



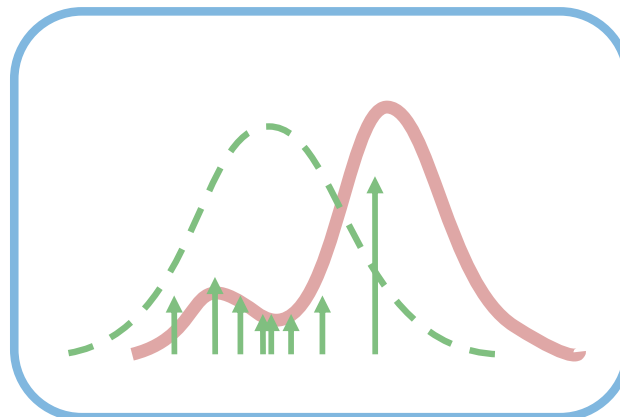
Class 2: Bounds & Variational Methods



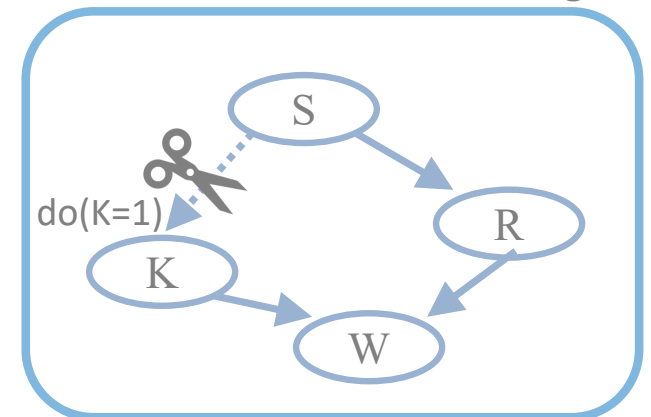
Class 3: Search Methods



Class 4: Monte Carlo Methods



Class 5: Causal Reasoning





# Summary

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- Formalisms for describing probabilistic & causal models
  - Bayesian networks, Influence Diagrams, Structural Causal Models
- Reasoning & Inference Queries
- Exact inference
  - Bucket elimination: time & memory exponential in the induced width.
  - Tree decomposition: organize computation into message-passing
  - Finding optimal induced width is hard, but greedy schemes work well
  - Inference task may restrict elimination orderings & increase width
- Learning from Data
  - Maximum likelihood learning
  - Easy case: match empirical statistics of the data