CSE 473: Artificial Intelligence
Autumn 2011

Bayesian Networks

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Many slides over the course adapted from either Dan Klein, Stuart Russell or Andrew Moore

Outline

- Probabilistic models (and inference)
  - Bayesian Networks (BNs)
  - Independence in BNs

Bayes' Nets: Big Picture

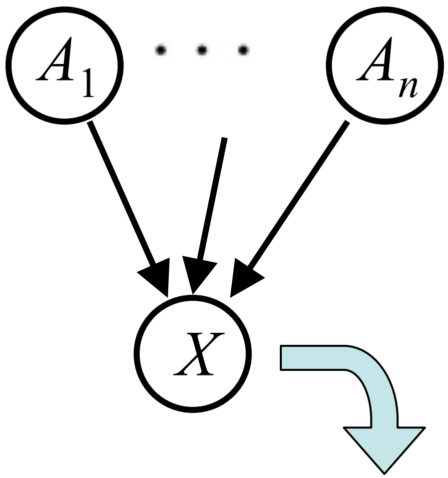
- Two problems with using full joint distribution tables as our probabilistic models:
  - Unless there are only a few variables, the joint is WAY too big to represent explicitly
  - Hard to learn (estimate) anything empirically about more than a few variables at a time
- Bayes' nets: a technique for describing complex joint distributions (models) using simple, local distributions (conditional probabilities)
  - More properly called graphical models
  - We describe how variables locally interact
  - Local interactions chain together to give global, indirect interactions

Bayes' Net Semantics

- Let's formalize the semantics of a Bayes' net
- A set of nodes, one per variable X
- A directed, acyclic graph
- A conditional distribution for each node
  - A collection of distributions over X, one for each combination of parents' values

    $$P(X|a_1 \ldots a_n)$$

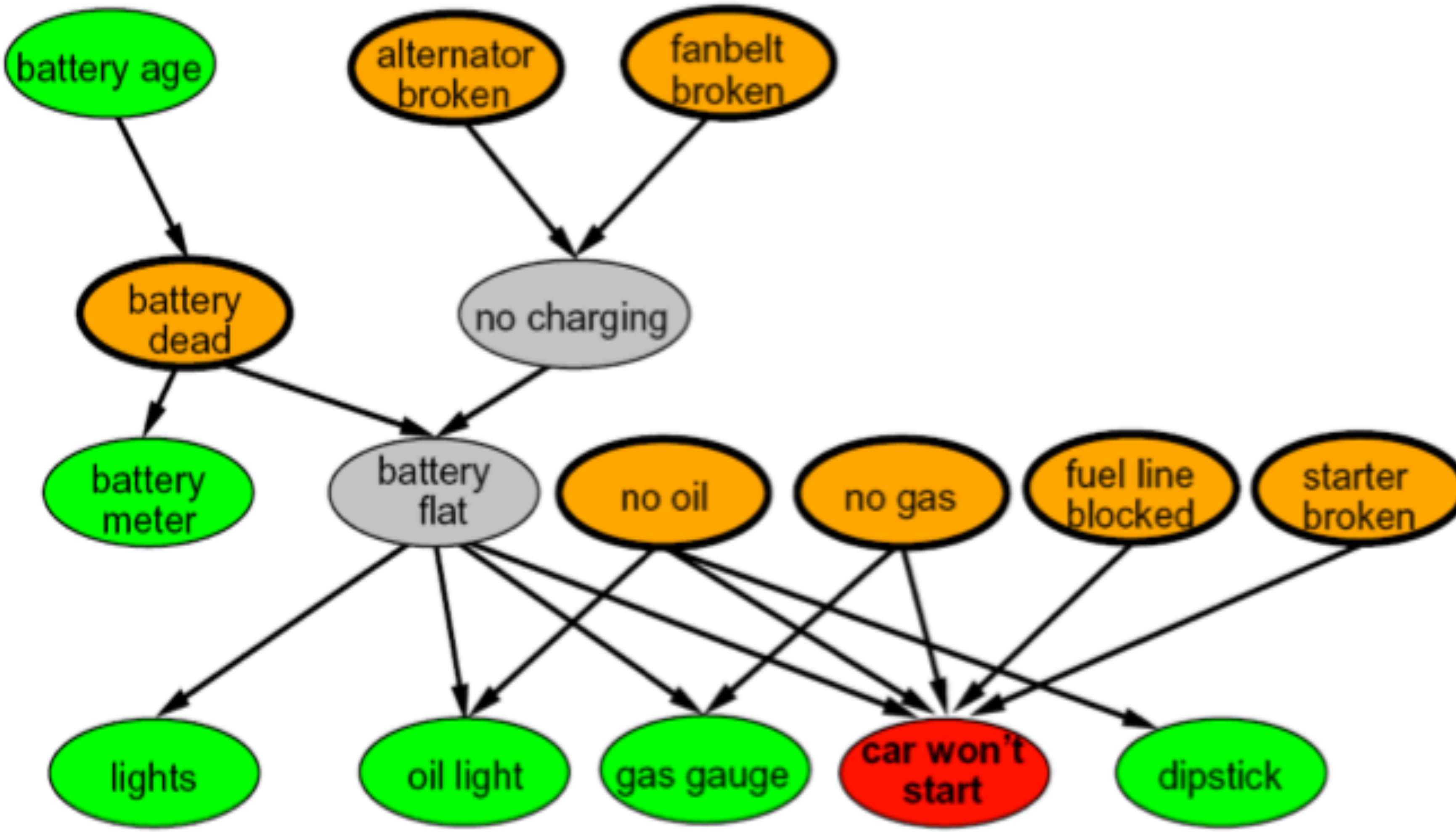
  - CPT: conditional probability table



$$P(X|A_1 \ldots A_n)$$

A Bayes net = Topology (graph) + Local Conditional Probabilities

Example Bayes' Net: Car



Probabilities in BNs

- Bayes' nets implicitly encode joint distributions
  - As a product of local conditional distributions
  - To see what probability a BN gives to a full assignment, multiply all the relevant conditionals together:

$$P(x_1, x_2, \ldots x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(x_i | parents(X_i))$$

- This lets us reconstruct any entry of the full joint
- Not every BN can represent every joint distribution
  - The topology enforces certain *independence* assumptions
  - Compare to the exact decomposition according to the chain rule!

Example Bayes' Net: Insurance

Example: Independence

- N fair, independent coin flips:

$P(X_1)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$P(X_2)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$\cdots$

$P(X_n)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$P(X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n)$

2^n

Example: Coin Flips

- N independent coin flips

- No interactions between variables: absolute independence

Independence

- Two variables are *independent* if:

$$\forall x, y : P(x, y) = P(x)P(y)$$

  - This says that their joint distribution *factors* into a product two simpler distributions
  - Another form:

$$\forall x, y : P(x|y) = P(x)$$

  - We write: $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$

- Independence is a simplifying *modeling assumption*
  - *Empirical* joint distributions: at best “close” to independent
  - What could we assume for {Weather, Traffic, Cavity, Toothache}?

Example: Independence?

$P(T)$

T	P
warm	0.5
cold	0.5

$P_1(T, W)$

T	W	P
warm	sun	0.4
warm	rain	0.1
cold	sun	0.2
cold	rain	0.3

$P(W)$

W	P
sun	0.6
rain	0.4

$P_2(T, W)$

T	W	P
warm	sun	0.3
warm	rain	0.2
cold	sun	0.3
cold	rain	0.2

Conditional Independence

- P(Toothache, Cavity, Catch)
- If I have a cavity, the probability that the probe catches in it doesn't depend on whether I have a toothache:
  - $P(+catch \mid +toothache, +cavity) = P(+catch \mid +cavity)$
- The same independence holds if I don't have a cavity:
  - $P(+catch \mid +toothache, \neg cavity) = P(+catch \mid \neg cavity)$
- Catch is *conditionally independent* of Toothache given Cavity:
  - $P(Catch \mid Toothache, Cavity) = P(Catch \mid Cavity)$
- Equivalent statements:
  - $P(Toothache \mid Catch , Cavity) = P(Toothache \mid Cavity)$
  - $P(Toothache, Catch \mid Cavity) = P(Toothache \mid Cavity) P(Catch \mid Cavity)$
  - One can be derived from the other easily

Conditional Independence

- Unconditional (absolute) independence very rare (why?)

- *Conditional independence* is our most basic and robust form of knowledge about uncertain environments:

$$\forall x, y, z : P(x, y|z) = P(x|z)P(y|z)$$
$$\forall x, y, z : P(x|z, y) = P(x|z)$$

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z$$

  - What about this domain:
    - Traffic
    - Umbrella
    - Raining
  - What about fire, smoke, alarm?

Ghostbusters Chain Rule

- Each sensor depends only on where the ghost is
- That means, the two sensors are conditionally independent, given the ghost position
- T: Top square is red
  B: Bottom square is red
  G: Ghost is in the top
- Can assume:
  $P(+g) = 0.5$
  $P(+t \mid +g) = 0.8$
  $P(+t \mid \neg g) = 0.4$
  $P(+b \mid +g) = 0.4$
  $P(+b \mid \neg g) = 0.8$

$$P(T,B,G) = P(G)\,P(T|G)\,P(B|G)$$

T	B	G	P
+t	+b	+g	0.16
+t	+b	¬g	0.16
+t	¬b	+g	0.24
+t	¬b	¬g	0.04
¬t	+b	+g	0.04
¬t	+b	¬g	0.24
¬t	¬b	+g	0.06
¬t	¬b	¬g	0.06

Example: Traffic

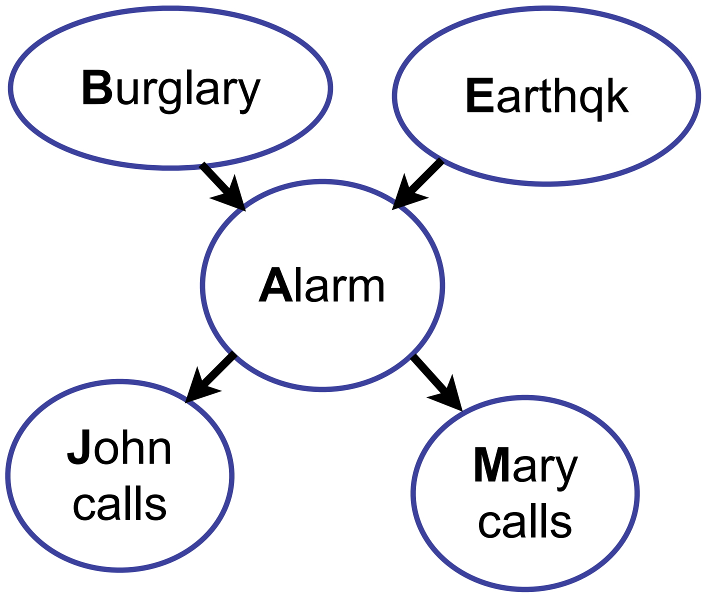
- Variables:
  - R: It rains
  - T: There is traffic
- Model 1: independence
- Model 2: rain is conditioned on traffic
  - Why is an agent using model 2 better?
- Model 3: traffic is conditioned on rain
  - Is this better than model 2?

Example: Alarm Network

- Variables
  - B: Burglary
  - A: Alarm goes off
  - M: Mary calls
  - J: John calls
  - E: Earthquake!

Example: Alarm Network

B	P(B)
+b	0.001
¬b	0.999



E	P(E)
+e	0.002
¬e	0.998

B	E	A	P(A|B,E)
+b	+e	+a	0.95
+b	+e	¬a	0.05
+b	¬e	+a	0.94
+b	¬e	¬a	0.06
¬b	+e	+a	0.29
¬b	+e	¬a	0.71
¬b	¬e	+a	0.001
¬b	¬e	¬a	0.999

A	J	P(J|A)
+a	+j	0.9
+a	¬j	0.1
¬a	+j	0.05
¬a	¬j	0.95

A	M	P(M|A)
+a	+m	0.7
+a	¬m	0.3
¬a	+m	0.01
¬a	¬m	0.99

Example: Traffic II

- Let's build a causal graphical model

- Variables
  - T: Traffic
  - R: It rains
  - L: Low pressure
  - D: Roof drips
  - B: Ballgame
  - C: Cavity

Example: Independence

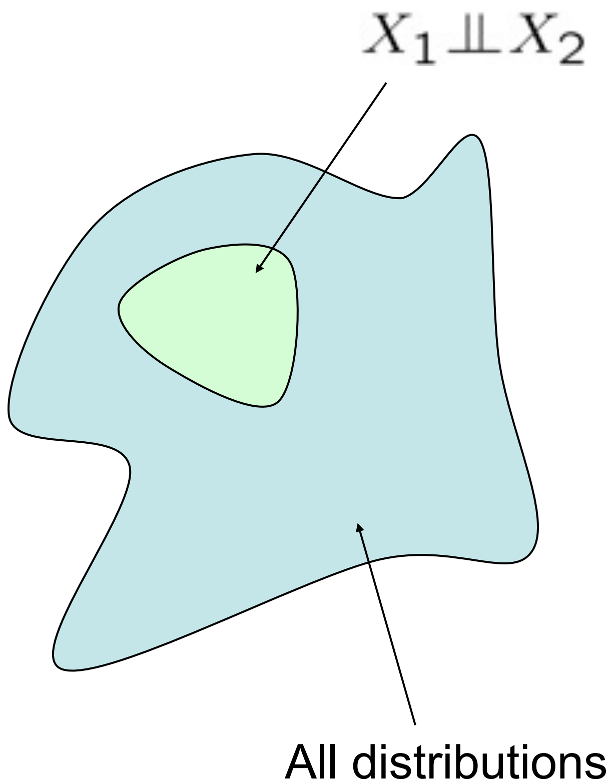
- For this graph, you can fiddle with θ (the CPTs) all you want, but you won't be able to represent any distribution in which the flips are dependent!

$P(X_1)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

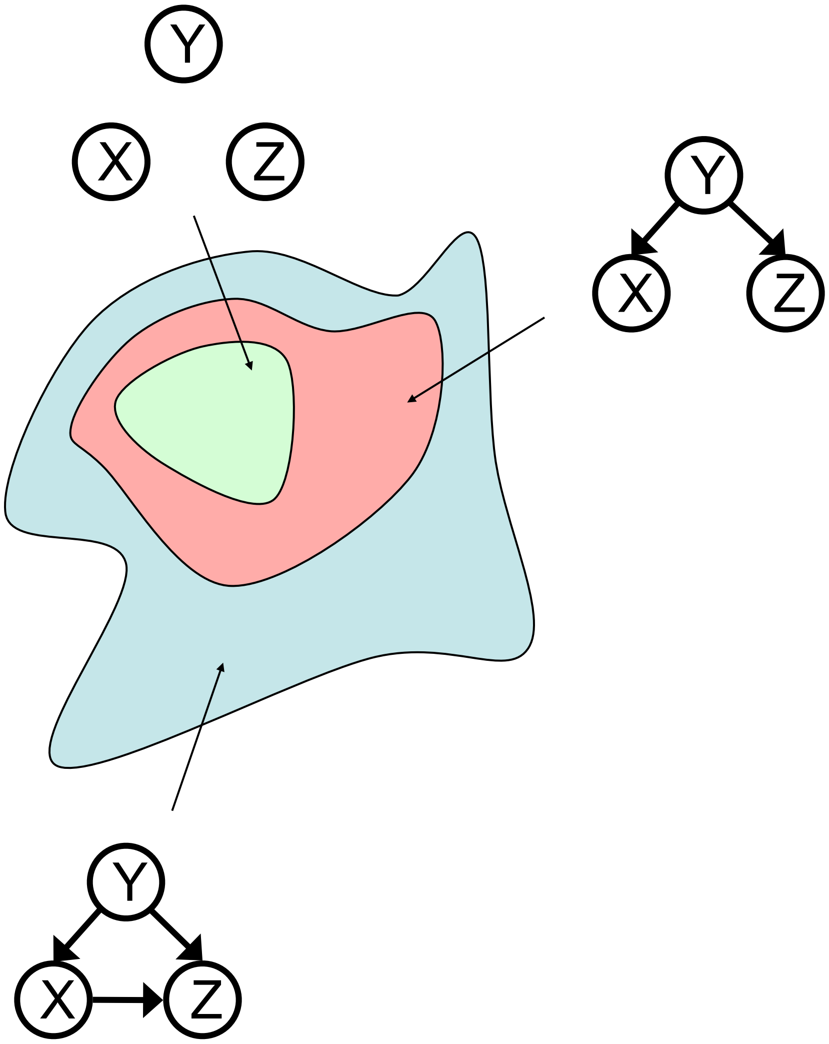
$P(X_2)$

h	0.5
t	0.5



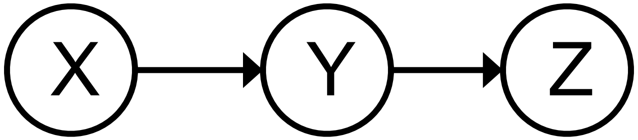
Topology Limits Distributions

- Given some graph topology G, only certain joint distributions can be encoded
- The graph structure guarantees certain (conditional) independences
- (There might be more independence)
- Adding arcs increases the set of distributions, but has several costs
- Full conditioning can encode any distribution



Independence in a BN

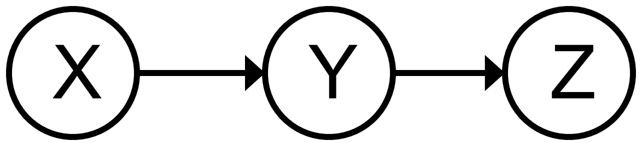
- Important question about a BN:
  - Are two nodes independent given certain evidence?
  - If yes, can prove using algebra (tedious in general)
  - If no, can prove with a counter example
  - Example:



  - Question: are X and Z necessarily independent?
    - Answer: no. Example: low pressure causes rain, which causes traffic.
    - X can influence Z, Z can influence X (via Y)
    - Addendum: they *could* be independent: how?

Causal Chains

- This configuration is a "causal chain"



X: Low pressure

Y: Rain

Z: Traffic

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

  - Is X independent of Z given Y?

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

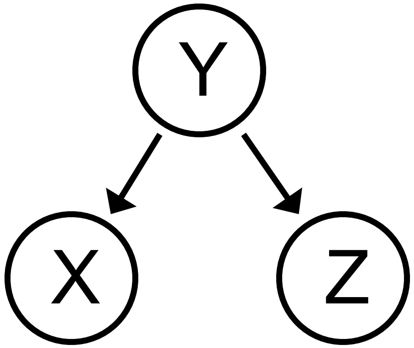
$$= P(z|y)$$

Yes!

  - Evidence along the chain "blocks" the influence

Common Parent

- Another basic configuration: two effects of the same parent
  - Are X and Z independent?
  - Are X and Z independent given Y?



Y: Project due

X: Newsgroup busy

Z: Lab full

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

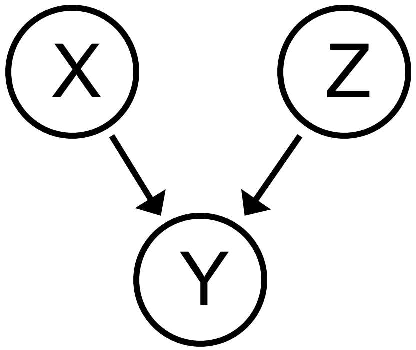
$$= P(z|y)$$

Yes!

- Observing the cause blocks influence between effects.

Common Effect

- Last configuration: two causes of one effect (v-structures)
  - Are X and Z independent?
    - Yes: the ballgame and the rain cause traffic, but they are not correlated
    - Still need to prove they must be (try it!)
  - Are X and Z independent given Y?
    - No: seeing traffic puts the rain and the ballgame in competition as explanation?
  - This is backwards from the other cases
    - Observing an effect activates influence between possible causes.



X: Raining

Z: Ballgame

Y: Traffic

The General Case

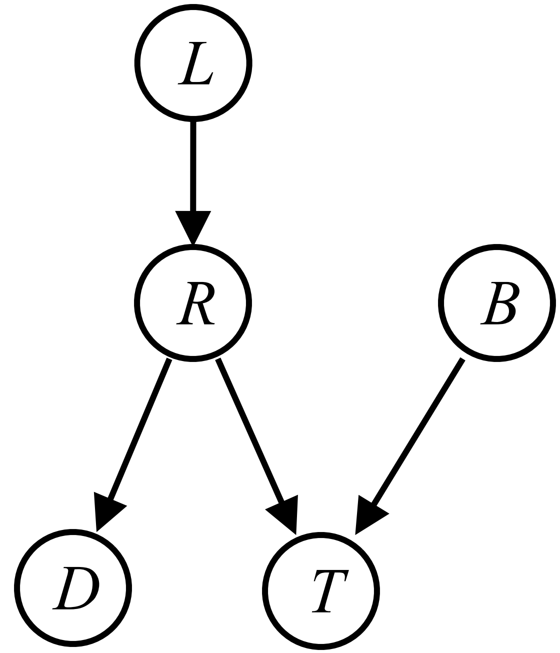
- Any complex example can be analyzed using these three canonical cases
- General question: in a given BN, are two variables independent (given evidence)?
- Solution: analyze the graph

Reachability

- Recipe: shade evidence nodes

- Attempt 1: if two nodes are connected by an undirected path not blocked by a shaded node, they are conditionally independent

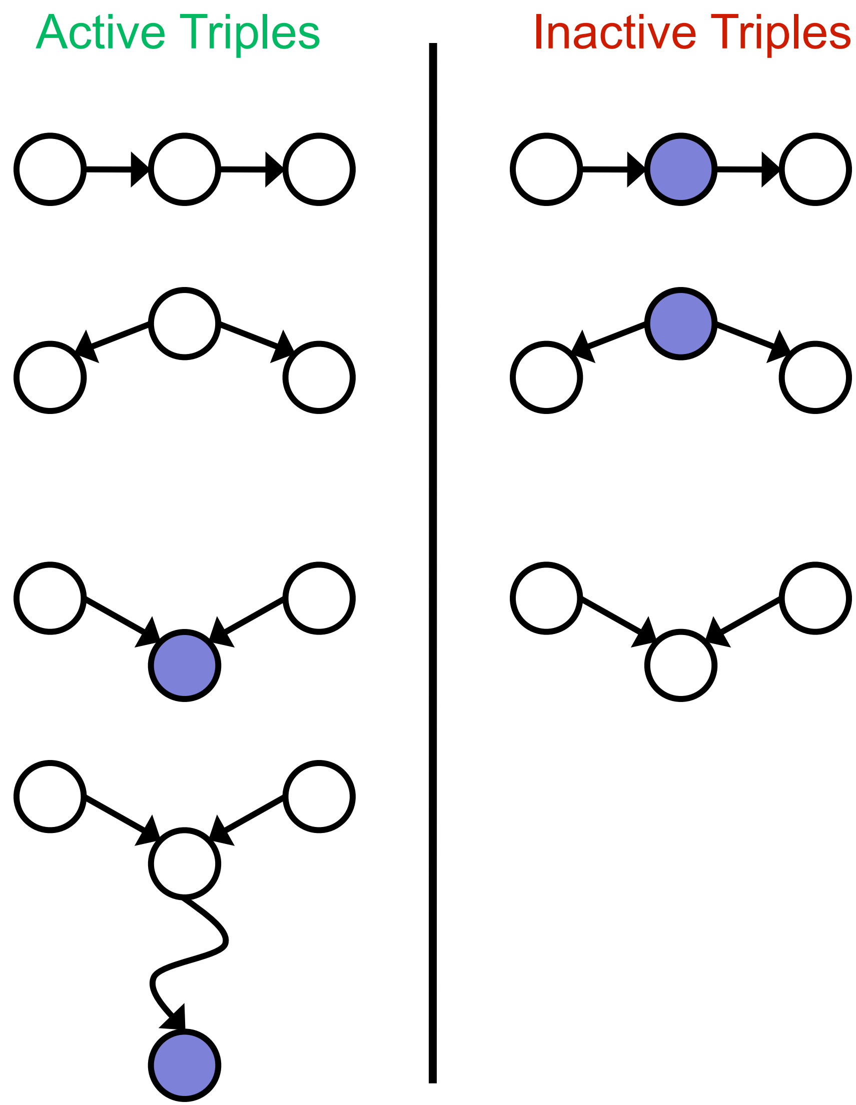
- Almost works, but not quite
  - Where does it break?
  - Answer: the v-structure at T doesn’t count as a link in a path unless “active”



Reachability (D-Separation)

- Question: Are X and Y conditionally independent given evidence vars {Z}?
  - Yes, if X and Y "separated" by Z
  - Look for active paths from X to Y
  - No active paths = independence!
- A path is active if each triple is active:
  - Causal chain A → B → C where B is unobserved (either direction)
  - Common cause A ← B → C where B is unobserved
  - Common effect (aka v-structure)

    A → B ← C where B *or one of its descendents* is observed
- All it takes to block a path is a single inactive segment

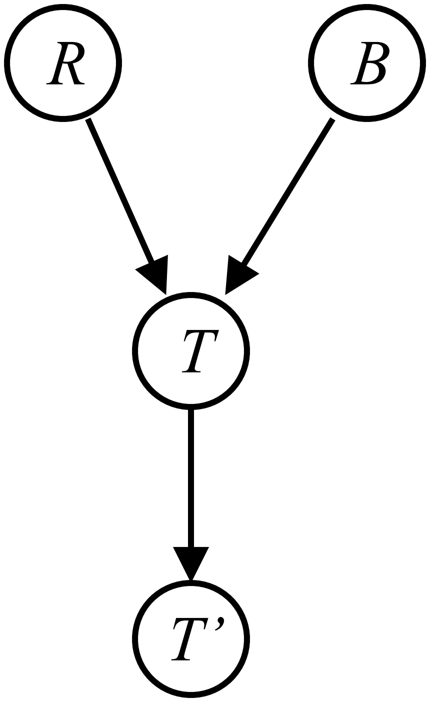


Example: Independent?

$R \perp\!\!\!\perp B$ Yes

$R \perp\!\!\!\perp B | T$

$R \perp\!\!\!\perp B | T'$



Example: Independent?

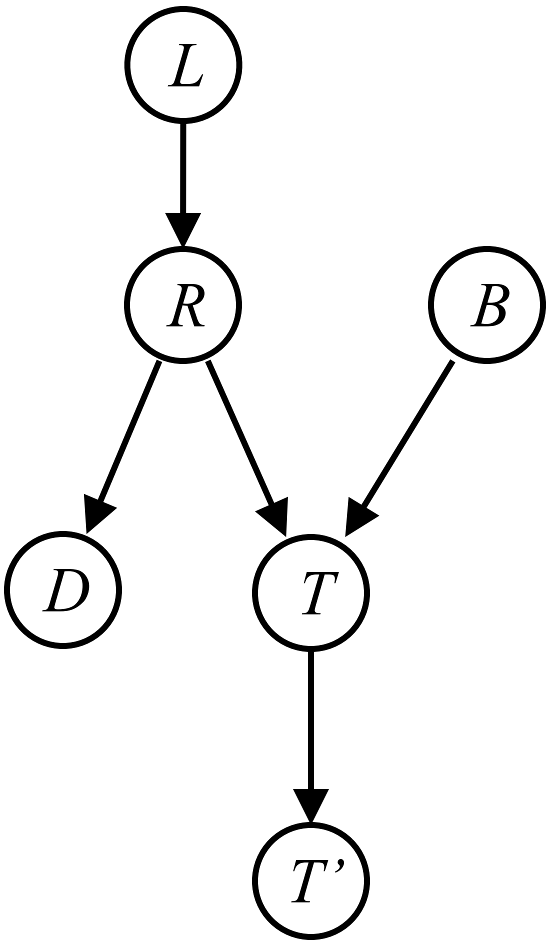
$L \perp\!\!\!\perp T' | T$ Yes

$L \perp\!\!\!\perp B$ Yes

$L \perp\!\!\!\perp B | T$

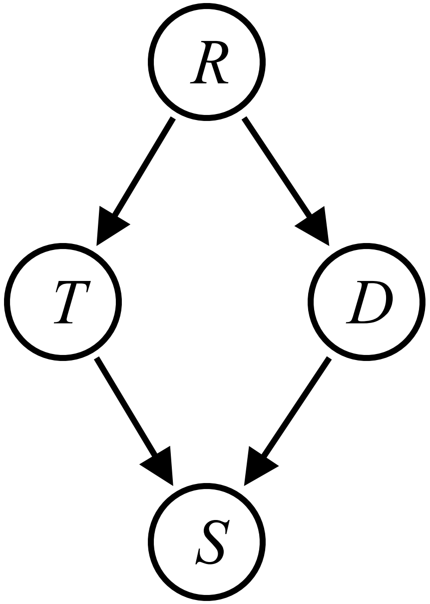
$L \perp\!\!\!\perp B | T'$

$L \perp\!\!\!\perp B | T, R$ Yes



Example

- Variables:
  - R: Raining
  - T: Traffic
  - D: Roof drips
  - S: I'm sad
- Questions:



$$T \perp\!\!\!\perp D$$

$$T \perp\!\!\!\perp D | R$$ Yes

$$T \perp\!\!\!\perp D | R, S$$

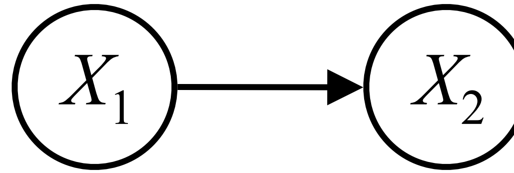
Changing Bayes’ Net Structure

- The same joint distribution can be encoded in many different Bayes’ nets

- Analysis question: given some edges, what other edges do you need to add?
  - One answer: fully connect the graph
  - Better answer: don’t make any false conditional independence assumptions

Example: Coins

- Extra arcs don't prevent representing independence, just allow non-independence



$P(X_1)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$P(X_2)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$P(X_1)$

h	0.5
t	0.5

$P(X_2|X_1)$

h | h	0.5
t | h	0.5
h | t	0.5
t | t	0.5

- Adding unneeded arcs isn't wrong, it's just inefficient

Summary

- Bayes nets compactly encode joint distributions
- Guaranteed independencies of distributions can be deduced from BN graph structure
- D-separation gives precise conditional independence guarantees from graph alone
- A Bayes' net's joint distribution may have further (conditional) independence that is not detectable until you inspect its specific distribution