

A photograph of a tiger behind a chain-link fence. The tiger is looking towards the camera, and its body is partially obscured by the diamond-shaped mesh of the fence. The background is a green, grassy area.

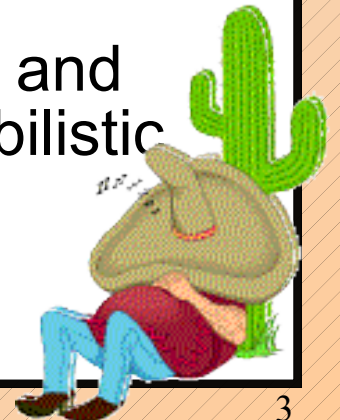
# Introduction to Bayesian Networks

# On learning and inference

- Assume  $n$  binary random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$
- A joint probability distribution  $P(X_1, \dots, X_n)$
- Inference:
  - compute the conditional probability distribution for the thing you want to know, given all that you know, marginalizing out all that you don't know and don't want to know
  - In principle exponential, requires  $O(2^n)$  operations
  - Can be simplified if the joint distribution factorizes by independence:  $P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$
- Learning:
  - learn the model structure: what is (conditionally) independent of what
  - learn the parameters defining the "local" distributions
- Supervised learning: construct directly a model for the required conditional distribution, without forming the joint distribution first

# Probabilistic reasoning

- $n$  (discrete) random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$
- joint probability distribution  $P(X_1, \dots, X_n)$
- Input: a partial value assignment  $\Omega$ ,  
 $\Omega = \langle X_1, X_2=x_2, X_3, X_4=x_4, X_5=x_5, X_6, \dots, X_n \rangle$
- Probabilistic reasoning:
  - compute  $P(X=x | \Omega)$  for all  $X$  not instantiated in  $\Omega$ , and for all values of each  $X$  (the marginal distribution), OR:
  - find a MAP (maximum a posterior probability) assignment consistent with  $\Omega$
  - N.B. These are not the same thing!
- Bayesian networks: a family of probabilistic models and algorithms enabling computationally efficient probabilistic reasoning



# Bayesian networks: a "Billion dollar" perspective



*“Microsoft’s competitive advantage, he [Gates] responded, was its expertise in “Bayesian networks”. Ask any other software executive about anything “Bayesian” and you’re liable to get a blank stare. Is Gates onto something? Is this alien-sounding technology Microsoft’s new secret weapon?”*

*(Leslie Helms, Los Angeles Times, October 28, 1996.)*

Microsoft Clippy - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit Real.com Messenger

Address http://www.officeclippy.com/indexno.html

Microsoft Office xp Microsoft

Office Home | Products | FAQ | Worldwide | Site Index | Contact Us

Clippy's Nicknames  
Click Clippy

VOTE on Clippy's Fate  
PLAY Clippy Game  
VIEW XP Demo  
ORDER XP Trial  
Office XP Events

It looks like you're writing a letter. Is it a love letter? Can I see?

**My name is Clippy, and Office XP has me sweating (and rusting).**

Why? Because **Office XP** works so easily that it's made Office Assistants like me useless. Obsolete. And, I'm told, hideously unattractive.

**They even cut my pay, despite the fact that I work for free!**

!

I've taken over this space to share my pathetic story and show off my skills as a Web designer. Not bad, huh? Know anyone who's hiring?

For years I've told you what to do. Now it's your turn. What should I do with all my newfound spare time? Vote at this [online poll](#). (Note: Dimpled chads will not be counted. So make sure you press the computer screen firmly.)

And another thing: Out of sorrow can come great art—and some rocking blues. Judge for yourself by downloading my new song, **"It Looks Like You're Writing a Letter."** It's done. I recorded it in the Microsoft

**MOVIE PLAYER**

You can't watch my movies until you install the Flash Player. To download it, [click here](#).

Play Movie 1 2 3 DOWNLOAD

**Featuring the voice of Gilbert Gottfried**

I, Clippit, known to all as "Clippy," am a movie star! (Did you know that most award winners got their starts in Flash animations?) [The episodes on this site](#) show the effects of Office XP on a humble paper clip like me. It isn't pretty.

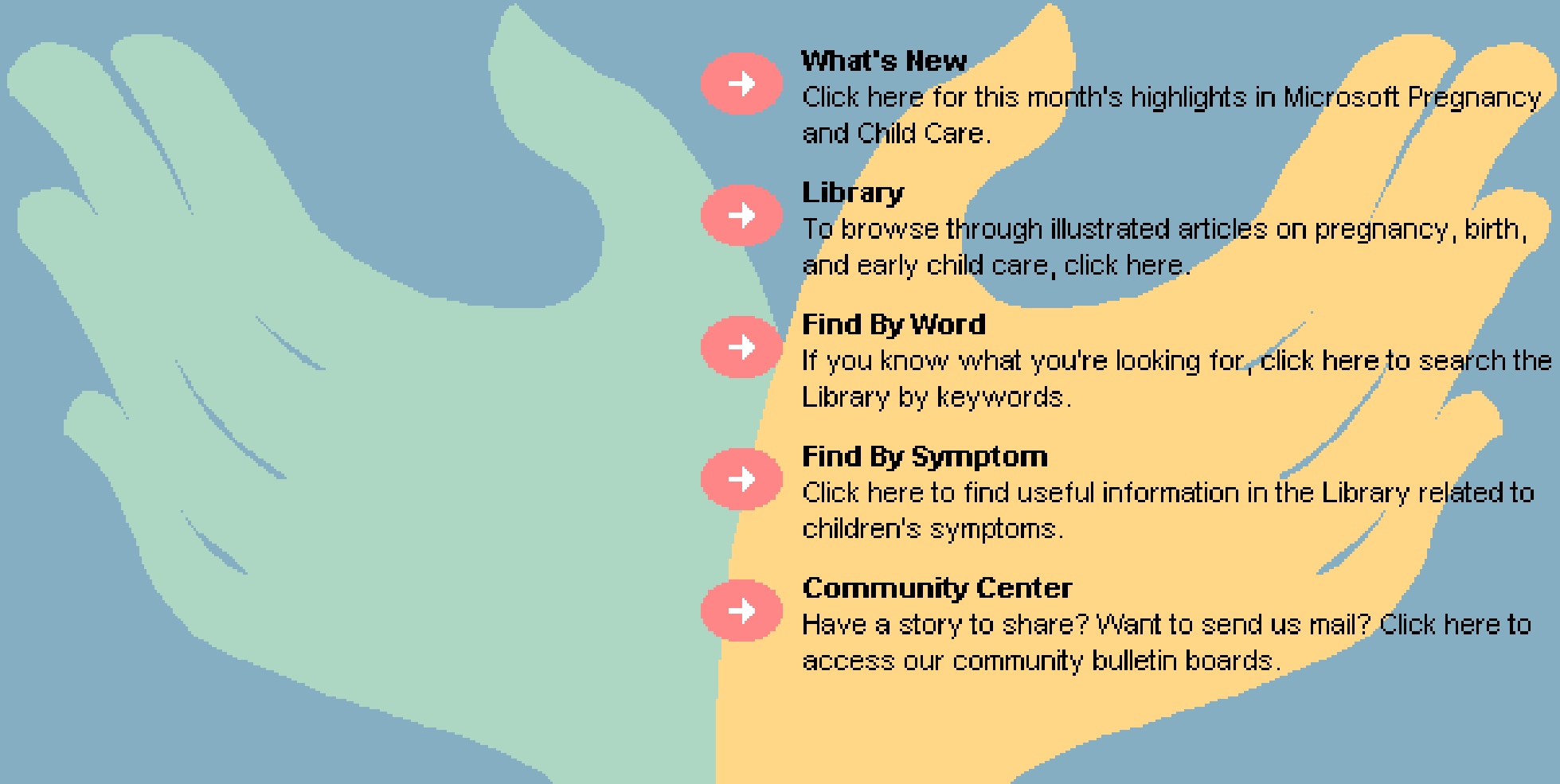
Internet

Microsoft Health Preview

# Pregnancy and Child Care



Medical  
Advisory  
Board



### What's New

Click here for this month's highlights in Microsoft Pregnancy and Child Care.



### Library

To browse through illustrated articles on pregnancy, birth, and early child care, click here.



### Find By Word

If you know what you're looking for, click here to search the Library by keywords.



### Find By Symptom

Click here to find useful information in the Library related to children's symptoms.



### Community Center

Have a story to share? Want to send us mail? Click here to access our community bulletin boards.



By Word

By Symptom

Recent Topics

## Questions

**Severity of abdominal pain: How severe is the child's abdominal pain?**

- No
- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe
- Don't Know

Find By Symptom is finding articles related to the symptom: Abdominal pain. Click Next to continue.

Viral gastroenteritis



Psychosomatic pain



Urinary tract infection



Other



Start Over

Change

Next =&gt;

Finish

# What do Bayesian networks have to offer?

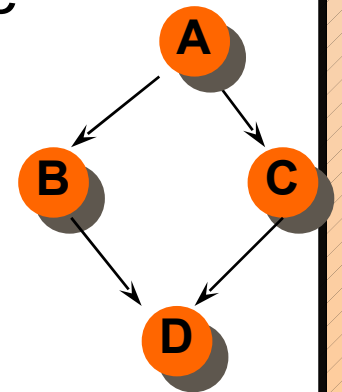
- encoding of the covariation between “input” variables
  - BN can handle incomplete data sets
- allows one to learn about causal relationships (predictions in the presence of interventions)
- natural way of combining domain knowledge and data as a single model
- Computationally efficient inference algorithms for multi-dimensional domains





# Bayesian networks: basics

- A Bayesian network is a model of probabilistic dependencies between the domain variables.
- The model can be described as a list of (in)dependencies, but it is usually more convenient to express them in a graphical form as a directed acyclic network.
- The nodes in the network correspond to the domain variables, and the arcs reveal the underlying dependencies, i.e., the hidden structure of the domain of your data.
- The "quantitative strengths" of the dependencies are modeled as conditional probability distributions (not shown in the graph).



# Bayesian networks?

- A very poor name, nothing Bayesian per se
- A parametric probabilistic model that
  - can be used for Bayesian inference (or not)
  - can be learned via Bayesian methods (or not)
  - is conveniently represented as a graph (a probabilistic graphical model)
- A better name: **directed acyclic graph (DAG)**
- (Even better: acyclic directed graph)

# The two-variable case

- Assume two binary (Bernoulli distributed) variables A and B
- Two examples of the joint distribution  $P(A,B)$ :

	B=1	B=0	P(A)
A=1	0.08	0.02	0.10
A=0	0.72	0.18	0.90
P(B)	0.80	0.20	

$$P(A,B)=P(A)P(B)$$

We only need the marginals  $P(A)$  and  $P(B)$ !

	B=1	B=0	P(A)
A=1	0.08	0.02	0.10
A=0	0.18	0.72	0.90
P(B)	0.26	0.74	

$$P(A,B)\neq P(A)P(B)$$

We need the full table (or:  $P(A,B)=P(A)P(B|A)$ )

# Independence

- If  $P(A,B)=P(A)P(B)$ , A and B are said to be **independent**
- Note that this also means that  $P(A | B) = P(A)$  (and:  $P(B | A) = P(B)$ )
- If A and B are not independent, they are dependent
- Independence can be used to separate from all joint distributions  $P(A,B)$  the subset where the independence holds
- Independence simplifies (constrains) things:
  - $A \perp B$ : *subset of distributions*
  - *not*  $A \perp B$ : *all distributions*

# Types of independence

- if  $P(A=a, B=b) = P(A=a)P(B=b)$  for all  $a$  and  $b$ , then we call  $A$  and  $B$  (marginally) independent.
- if  $P(A=a, B=b \mid C=c) = P(A=a \mid C=c)P(B=b \mid C=c)$  for all  $a$  and  $b$ , then we call  $A$  and  $B$  conditionally independent given  $C=c$ .
- if  $P(A=a, B=b \mid C) = P(A=a \mid C)P(B=b \mid C)$  for all  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ , then we call  $A$  and  $B$  conditionally independent given  $C$ .

- $P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$  implies

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A, B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A)P(B)}{P(B)} = P(A)$$

# Examples

- Amount of Speeding fine  $\perp$  Type of car | Speed
  - But: Amount of Speeding fine  $\not\perp$  Type of car
- Lung cancer  $\perp$  Yellow teeth | Smoking
  - But: Lung cancer  $\not\perp$  Yellow teeth
- Child's genes  $\perp$  Grandparent's genes | Parents' genes
  - But: Child's genes  $\not\perp$  Grandparent's genes
- Ability of Team A  $\perp$  Ability of Team B
  - But: Ability of Team A  $\not\perp$  Ability of Team B | Outcome of A vs. B game

# Independence saves space

- If A and B are independent given C:

$$P(A,B,C) = P(C,A,B)$$

$$= P(C)P(A|C)P(B|A,C)$$

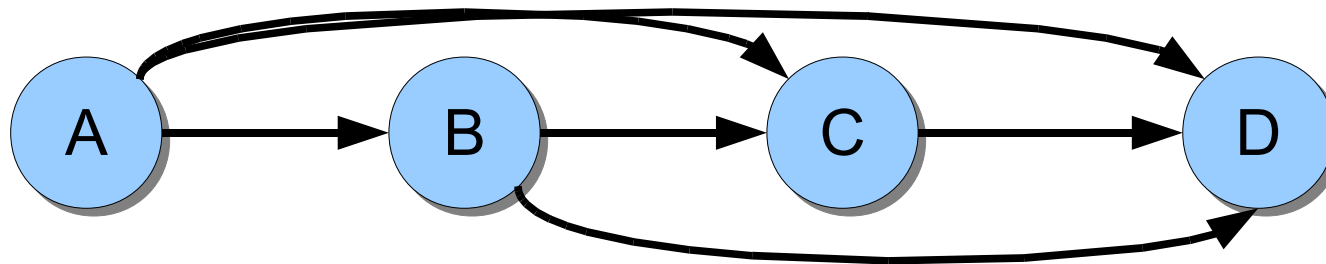
$$= P(C)P(A|C)P(B|C)$$

- Instead of having a full joint probability table for  $P(A,B,C)$ , we can have a table for  $P(C)$  and tables  $P(A|C=c)$  and  $P(B|C=c)$  for each  $c$ .
  - Even for binary variables this saves space:
    - $2^3 = 8$  vs.  $2 + 2 + 2 = 6$ .
  - With many variables and many independences you **save a lot**.

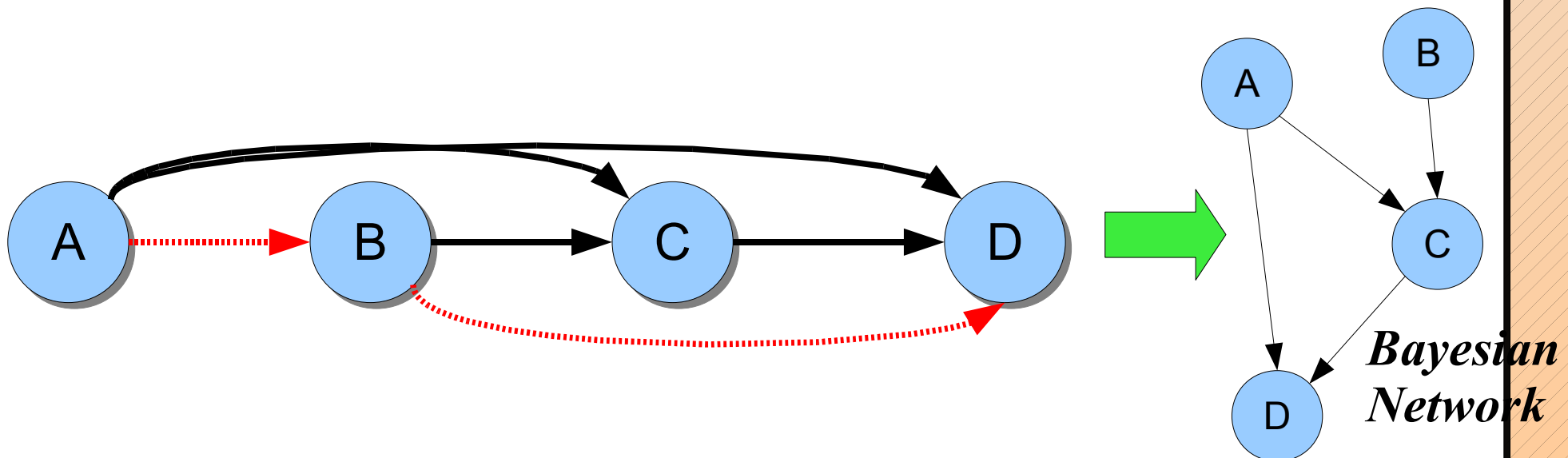


# Chain Rule – Independence - BN

*Chain rule*:  $P(A, B, C, D) = P(A)P(B|A)P(C|A, B)P(D|A, B, C)$

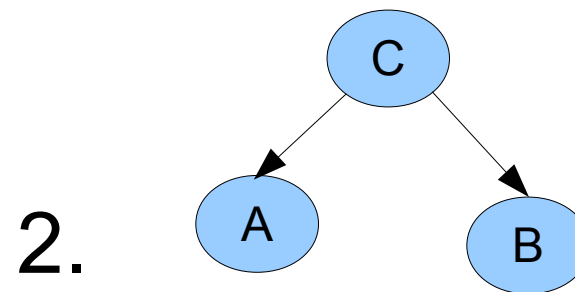
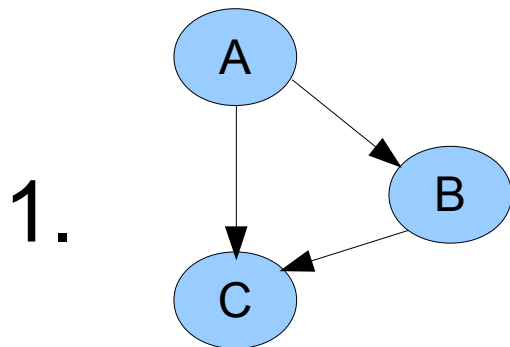


*Independence*:  $P(A, B, C, D) = P(A)P(B)P(C|A, B)P(D|A, C)$



# But order can matter

- $P(A,B,C) = P(C,A,B)$ 
  - $P(A)P(B|A)P(C|A,B) = P(C)P(A|C)P(B|A,C)$
  - And if A and B are conditionally independent given C:
    1.  $P(A,B,C) = P(A)P(B|A)P(C|A,B)$
    2.  $P(C,A,B) = P(C)P(A|C)P(B|C)$



# Bayes net as a factorization

- Bayesian network structure forms a directed acyclic graph (DAG).
- If we have a DAG  $G$ , we denote the parents of the node (variable)  $X_i$  with  $\text{Pa}_G(x_i)$  and a value configuration of  $\text{Pa}_G(x_i)$  with  $\text{pa}_G(x_i)$  :

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n | G) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | \text{pa}_G(x_i)),$$

where  $P(x_i | \text{pa}_G(x_i))$  are called local probabilities.

- Local probabilities are stored in the conditional probability tables (CPTs).

# A Bayesian network

$P(\text{Cloudy})$

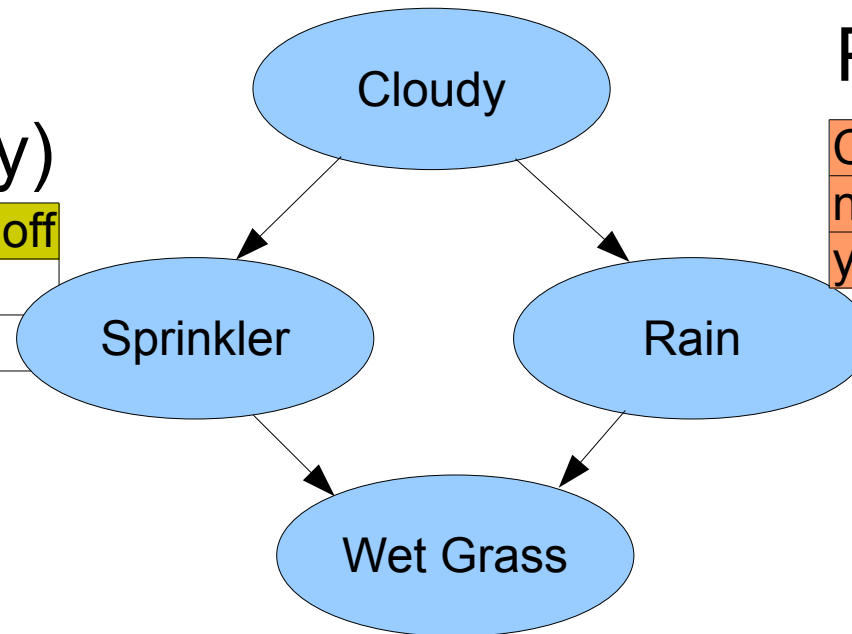
	Cloudy=no	Cloudy=yes
	0.5	0.5

$P(\text{Sprinkler} \mid \text{Cloudy})$

Cloudy	Sprinkler=on	Sprinkler=off
no	0.5	0.5
yes	0.9	0.1

$P(\text{Rain} \mid \text{Cloudy})$

Cloudy	Rain=yes	Rain=no
no	0.2	0.8
yes	0.8	0.2



$P(\text{WetGrass} \mid \text{Sprinkler}, \text{Rain})$

Sprinkler	Rain	WetGrass=yes	WetGrass=no
on	no	0.90	0.10
on	yes	0.99	0.01
off	no	0.01	0.99
off	yes	0.90	0.10

# Causal order recommended

- Causes first, then effects.
- Since causes render direct consequences independent yielding smaller CPTs
- Causal CPTs are easier to assess by human experts
- Smaller CPT:s are easier to estimate reliably from a finite set of observations (data)
- Causal networks can be used to make causal inferences too.

# Inference in Bayesian networks

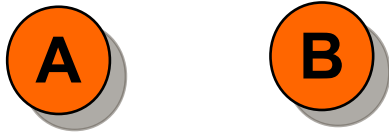
- Given a Bayesian network  $B$  (i.e., DAG and CPTs), calculate  $P(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{e})$  where  $\mathbf{X}$  is a set of query variables and  $\mathbf{e}$  is an instantiation of observed variables  $\mathbf{E}$  ( $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{E}$  separate).
- There is always the way through marginals:
  - normalize  $P(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{e}) = \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \text{dom}(\mathbf{Y})} P(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y},\mathbf{e})$ , where  $\text{dom}(\mathbf{Y})$ , is a set of all possible instantiations of the unobserved non-query variables  $\mathbf{Y}$ .
- There are much smarter algorithms too, but in general the problem is NP hard (more later).

# Back to the two-variable case...

## Model M1:

A and B independent

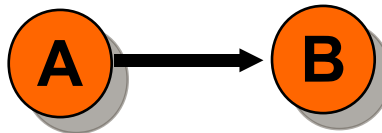
$$P(A,B) = P(A)P(B)$$



## Model M2:

A and B dependent

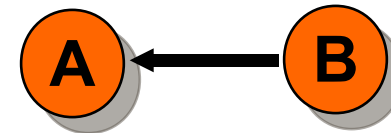
$$P(A,B) = P(A)P(B|A)$$



## Model M3:

A and B dependent

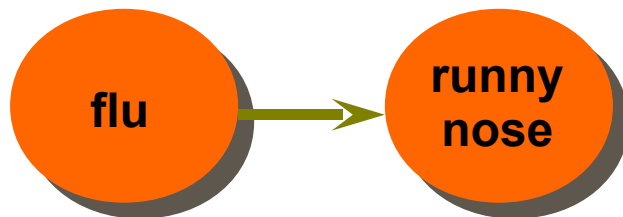
$$P(A,B) = P(B)P(A|B)$$



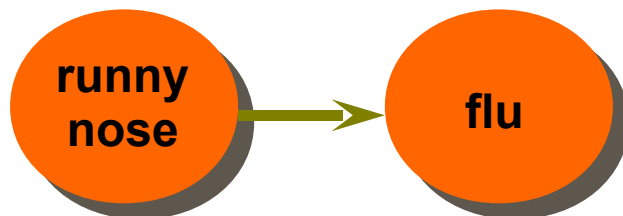


# Equivalence classes

- Equivalence class = set of BN structures which can be used for representing exactly the same set of probability distributions.
- The "causally natural" version makes it easier to determine the conditional probabilities.

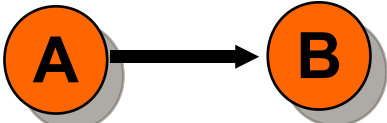
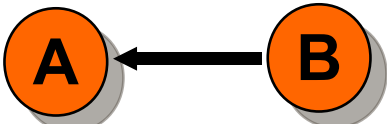


$$P(\text{flu}, \text{ns}) = P(\text{flu})P(\text{rn} \mid \text{flu})$$



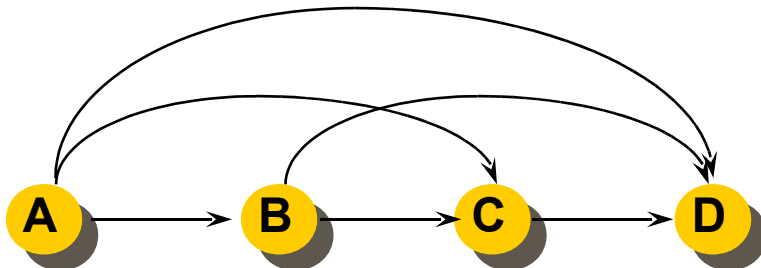
$$P(\text{flu}, \text{rn}) = P(\text{rn})P(\text{flu} \mid \text{rn})$$

# The Bayes rule visualized

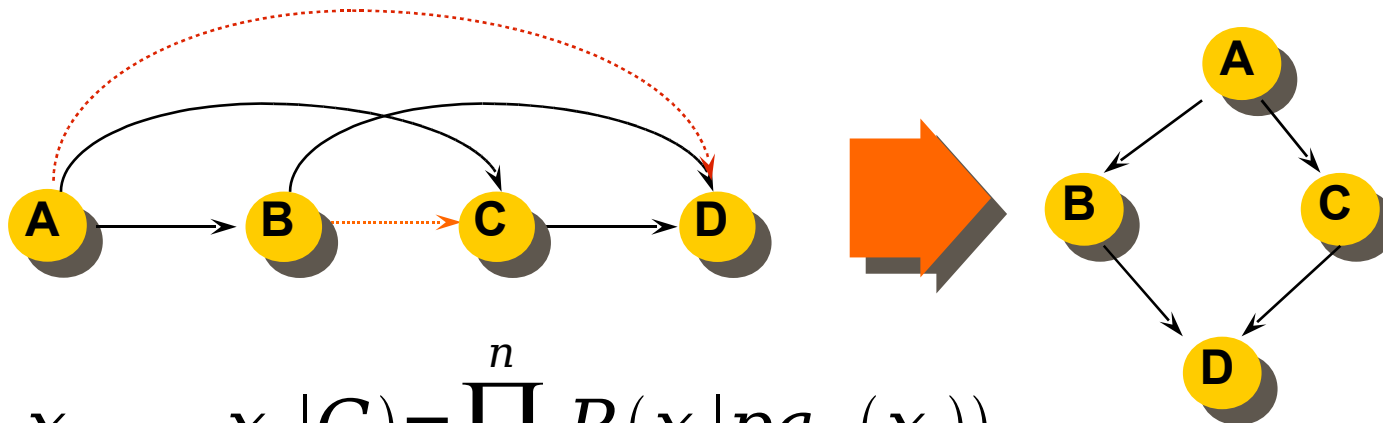
- $P_1(A,B)=P_1(A)P_1(B | A)$  
- $P_2(A,B)=P_2(B)P_2(A | B)$  
- Assume  $P_1(A)$  and  $P_1(B | A)$  fixed
- $P_2(A,B)=P_1(A,B)$  if:  
$$P_2(A | B) = P_1(A)P_1(B | A)/P_2(B)$$

# Another example

- From Bayes' rule, it follows that  
 $P(A,B,C,D)=P(A)P(B|A)P(C|A,B)P(D|A,B,C)$



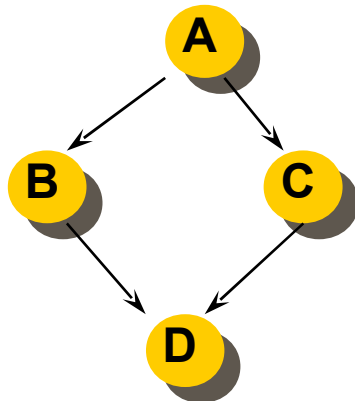
Assume:  $P(C|A,B)=P(C|A)$  and  $P(D|A,B,C)=P(D|B,C)$



$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n | G) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | pa_G(x_i))$$

# And the point is...?

- simple conditional probabilities are easier to determine than the full joint probabilities
- in many domains, the underlying structure corresponds to relatively sparse networks, so only a small number of conditional probabilities is needed



$$P(+a,+b,+c,+d)=P(+a)P(+b|+a)P(+c|+a)P(+d|+b,+c)$$

$$P(-a,+b,+c,+d)=P(-a)P(+b|-a)P(+c|-a)P(+d|+b,+c)$$

$$P(-a,-b,+c,+d)=P(-a)P(-b|-a)P(+c|-a)P(+d|-b,+c)$$

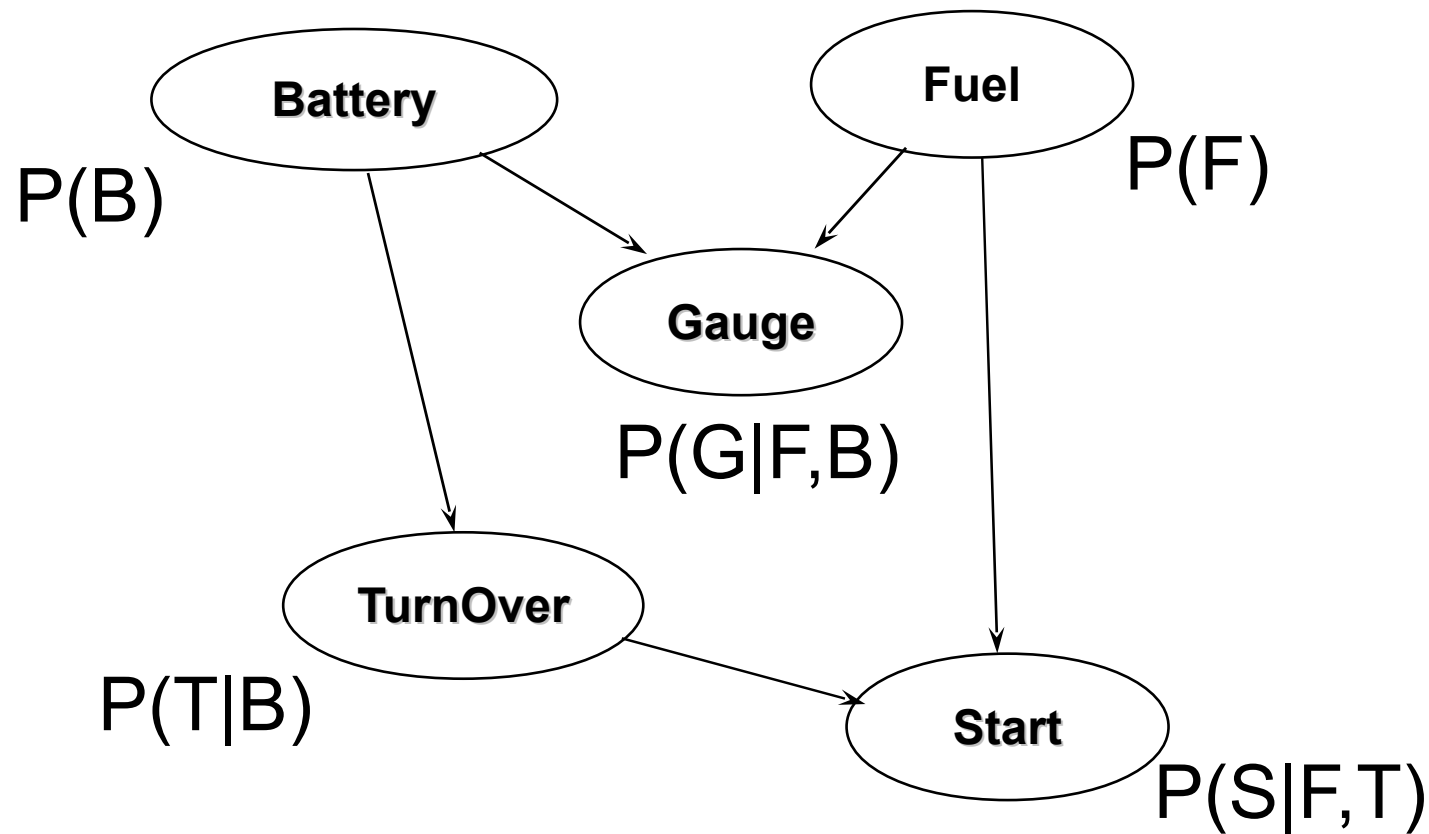
$$P(-a,-b,-c,+d)=P(-a)P(-b|-a)P(-c|-a)P(+d|-b,-c)$$

$$P(-a,-b,-c,-d)=P(-a)P(-b|-a)P(-c|-a)P(-d|-b,-c)$$

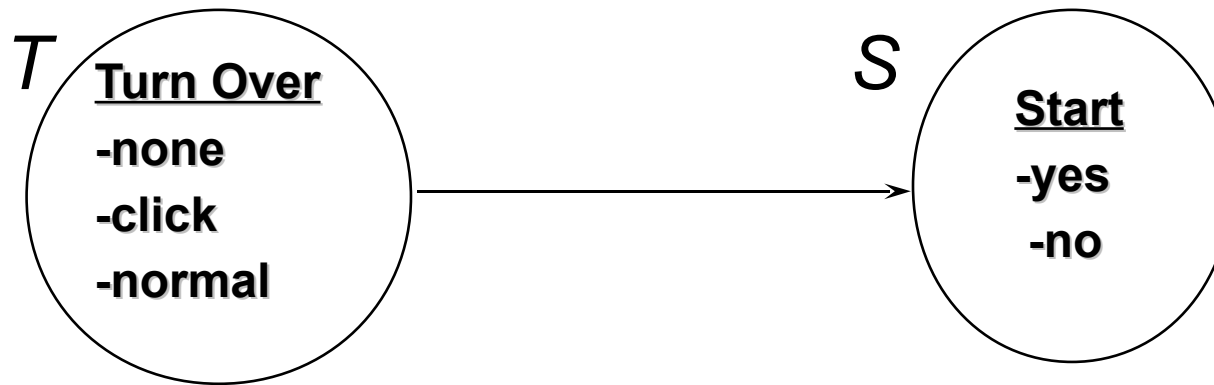
$$P(+a,-b,-c,-d)=P(+a)P(-b|+a)P(-c|+a)P(-d|-b,-c)$$

...

# A Bayesian Network



# Building a Bayesian Network



$$P(T=\text{none}) = 0.003$$
$$P(T=\text{click}) = 0.001$$
$$P(T=\text{normal}) = 0.996$$

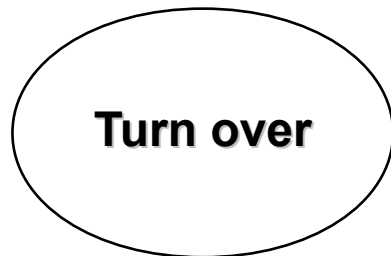
$$P(S=\text{yes}|T=\text{none}) = 0.0$$
$$P(S=\text{no}|T=\text{none}) = 1.0$$

$$P(S=\text{yes}|T=\text{click}) = 0.02$$
$$P(S=\text{no}|T=\text{click}) = 0.98$$

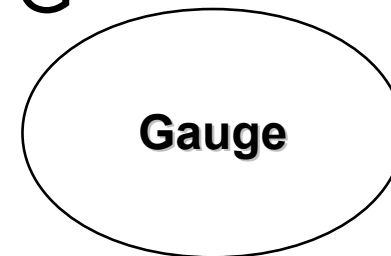
$$P(S=\text{yes}|T=\text{normal}) = 0.97$$
$$P(S=\text{no}|T=\text{normal}) = 0.03$$

# Missing Arcs Encode Conditional Independence

T



G

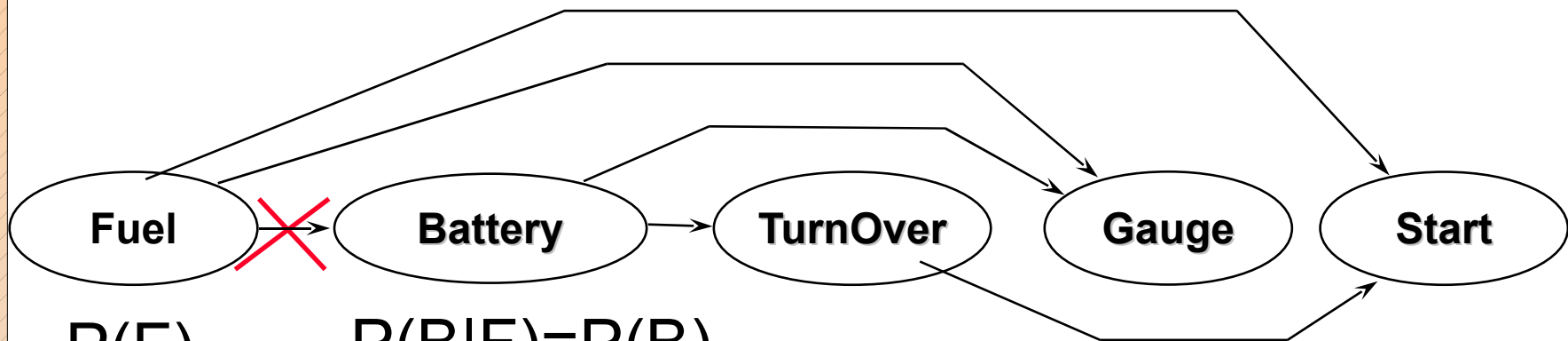


$p(T=\text{none}) = 0.003$   
 $p(T=\text{click}) = 0.001$   
 $p(T=\text{normal}) = 0.996$

$p(G=\text{not empty}) = 0.995$   
 $p(G=\text{empty}) = 0.005$



# A Modular Encoding of a Joint Distribution



$$P(F)$$

$$P(B|F)=P(B)$$

$$P(T|B,F)=P(T|B)$$

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

$$P(S|F,B,T,G)=P(S|F,T)$$

$$P(F,B,T,G,S)$$

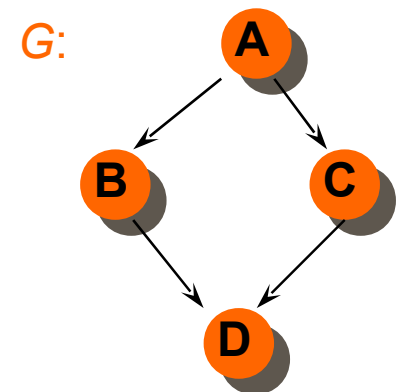
$$= P(F) P(B|F) P(T|B,F) P(G|F,B,T) P(S|F,B,T,G)$$

$$= P(F) P(B) P(T|B) P(G|F,B) P(S|F,T)$$

# Bayesian networks: the textbook definition

- A Bayesian (belief) network representation for a probability distribution  $P$  on a domain  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  is a pair  $(G, \Theta)$ , where  $G$  is a directed acyclic graph whose nodes correspond to the variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , and whose topology satisfies the following: each variable  $X$  is conditionally independent of all of its non-descendants in  $G$ , given its set of parents  $pa_X$ , and no proper subset of  $pa_X$  satisfies this condition. The second component  $\Theta$  is a set consisting of all the conditional probabilities of the form  $P(X|pa_X)$ .

$$\Theta = \{P(+a), P(+b|+a), P(+b|-a), P(+c|+a), P(+c|-a), P(+d|+b,+c), P(+d|-b,+c), P(+d|+b,-c), P(+d|-b,-c)\}$$



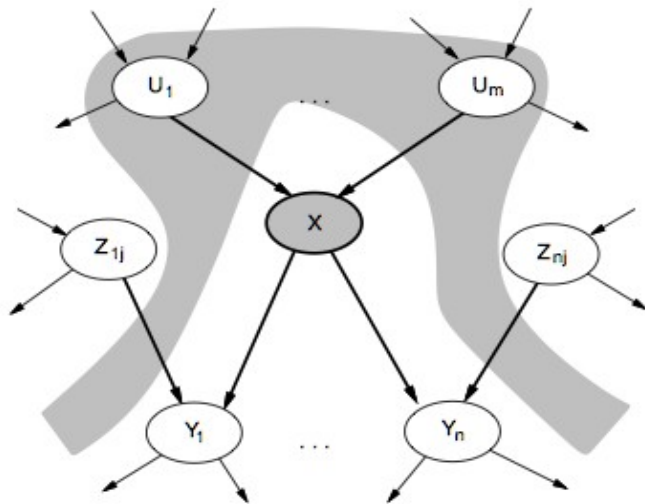
# Markov conditions

- Local (parental) Markov condition
  - $X$  is independent of its non-descendants given its parents.
- Another local Markov condition
  - $X$  is independent of any set of other variables given its parents, children and parents of its children (= **Markov blanket**)
- Global Markov Condition
  - $X$  and  $Y$  are dependent given  $Z$ , iff they are d-separated by  $Z$

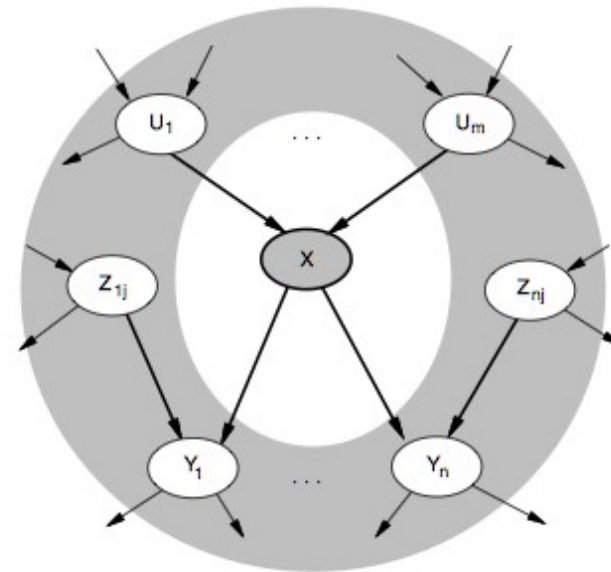


# Local Markov conditions visualized

- From Russell & Norvig's book:



"X is conditionally independent of its non-descendants, given its parents"



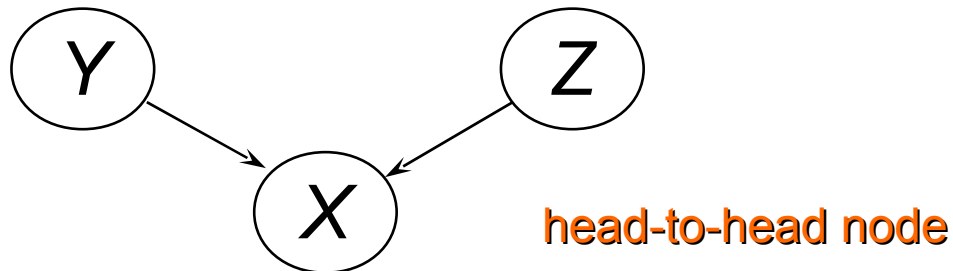
"X is conditionally independent of all the other variables, given its Markov blanket"

# d-Separation (Pearl 1987)

- Theorem (Verma):  $X$  and  $Y$  are d-separated by  $Z$  implies  $X \perp Y \mid Z$ .
- Theorem (Geiger and Pearl): If  $X$  and  $Y$  are not d-separated by  $Z$ , then there exists an assignment of the probabilities to the BN such that  $(X \perp Y \mid Z)$  does not hold.

# d-Separation

- A *trail* in a BN is a cycle-free sequence (path) of edges in the corresponding undirected graph (the **skeleton**)
- A node  $x$  is a head-to-head node (a "**v-node**") along a trail if there are two consecutive arcs  $Y \rightarrow X$  and  $X \leftarrow Z$  on that trail:



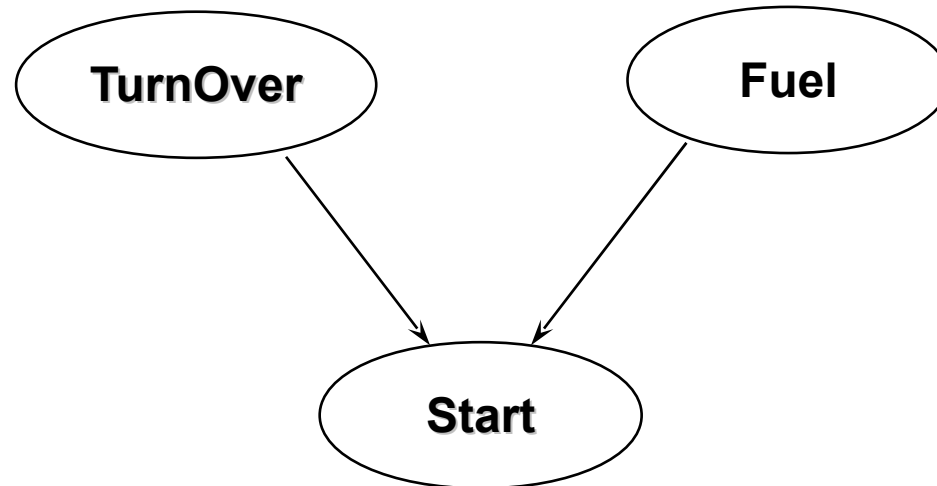
# d-Separation

- Nodes  $X$  and  $Y$  are **d-connected** by nodes  $Z$  along a trail from  $X$  to  $Y$  if
  - every head-to-head node along the trail is in  $Z$  or has a descendant in  $Z$
  - every other node along the trail is not in  $Z$

Nodes  $X$  and  $Y$  are **d-separated** by nodes  $Z$  if they are not d-connected by  $Z$  along any trail from  $X$  to  $Y$

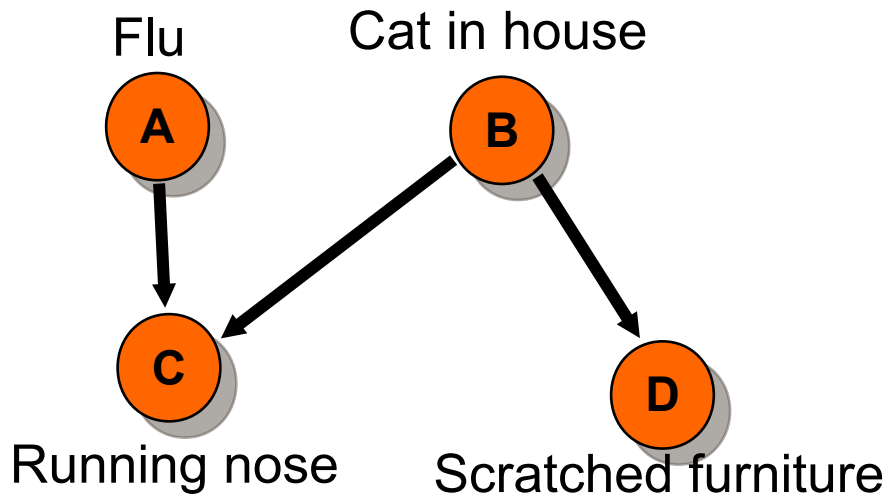


# Explaining Away (selection bias, Berkson's paradox)



If the car doesn't start, hearing the engine turn over makes no fuel more likely.

# Explaining away: another example



$P(A=1)=0.05$   
 $P(B=1)=0.05$   
 $P(C=1|A=0,B=0)=0.001$   
 $P(C=1|A=1,B=0)=0.95$   
 $P(C=1|A=0,B=1)=0.95$   
 $P(C=1|A=1,B=1)=0.99$   
 $P(D=1|B=1)=0.99$   
 $P(D=1|B=0)=0.1$

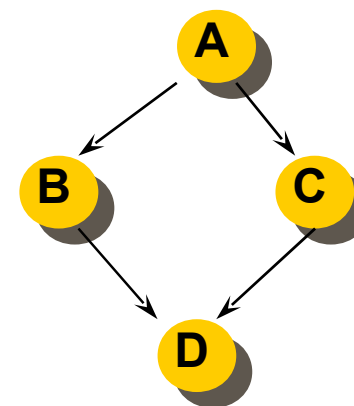
- Given  $C=1$ , the probability of  $A=1$  is about 51%, and the probability of  $B=1$  is also about 51%
- Given  $C=1$  **and**  $D=1$ , the probability of  $A=1$  goes down to 13% while the probability of  $B=1$  goes up to 91%
- Details: see pages 53-56 of the report *Bayes-verkkojen mahdollisuudet*

# Types of connections

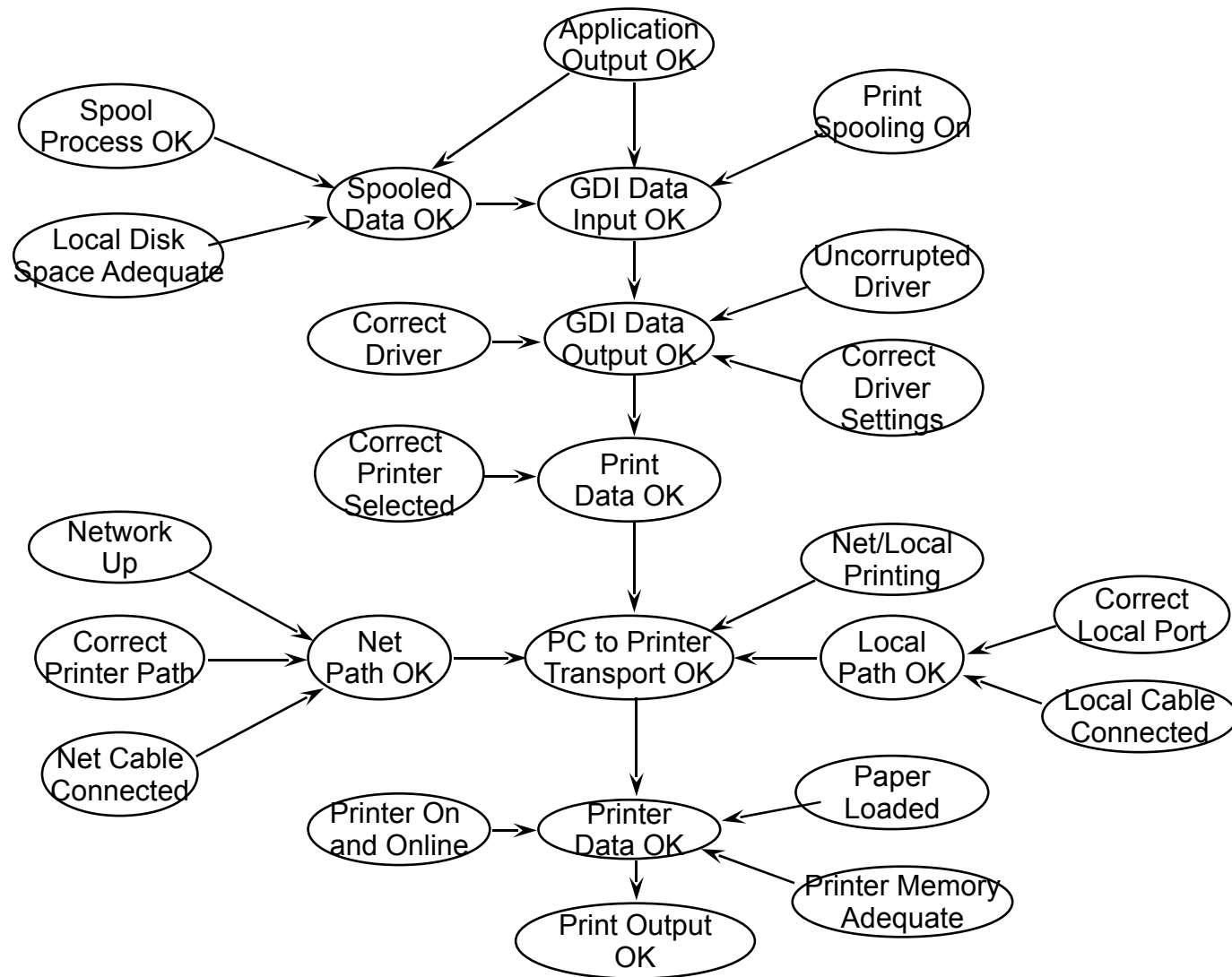
- There can be three types of connections on a trail:
  - **Serial**:  $X \rightarrow Z \rightarrow Y$ 
    - Blocked at  $Z$  if  $Z$  known
  - **Diverging**:  $X \leftarrow Z \rightarrow Y$ 
    - Blocked at  $Z$  if  $Z$  known
  - **Converging** (head-to-head):  $X \rightarrow Z \leftarrow Y$ 
    - Blocked at  $Z$  UNLESS  $Z$  or any of its descendants known

# Reading out the dependencies

- The Bayesian network on the right represents the following list of dependencies:
  - A and B are dependent on each other no matter what we know and what we don't know about C or D (or both).
  - A and C are dependent on each other no matter what we know and what we don't know about B or D (or both).
  - B and D are dependent on each other no matter what we know and what we don't know about A or C (or both).
  - C and D are dependent on each other no matter what we know and what we don't know about A or B (or both).
  - A and D are dependent on each other if we do not know both B and C.
  - B and C are dependent on each other if we know D or if we do not know D and also do not know A.



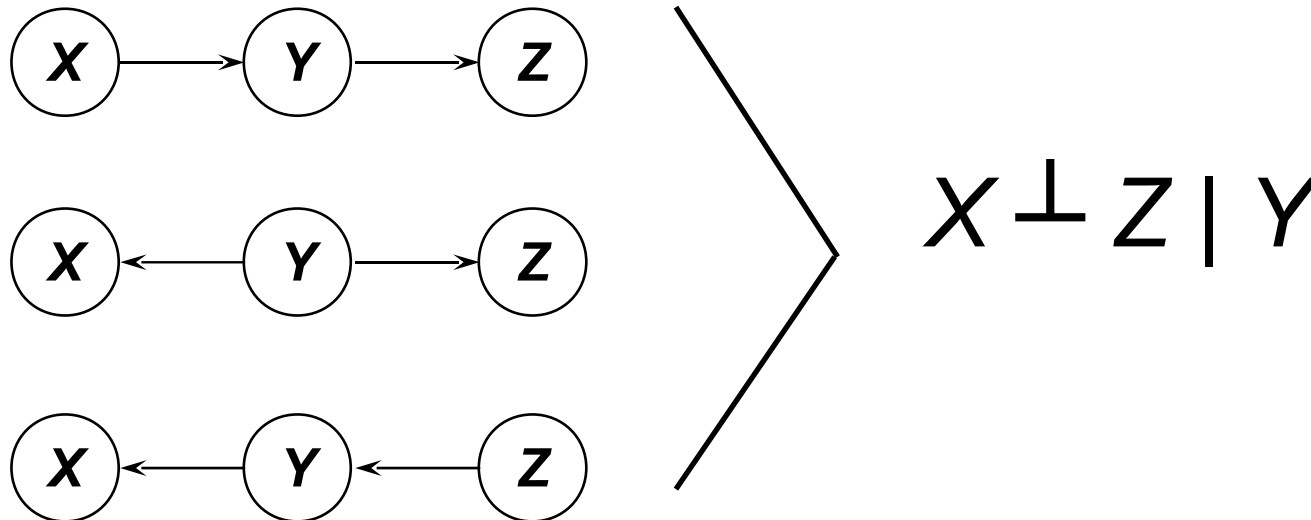
# Printer Troubleshooter (W '95)



# Equivalent Network Structures

Two network structures for domain  $X$  are **independence equivalent** if they encode the same set of conditional independence statements

**Example:**



# Equivalent network structures

- Verma (1990): Two network structures are independence equivalent if and only if:
  - They have the same skeleton
  - They have the same v-structures

