

# **STA 4273H: Statistical Machine Learning**

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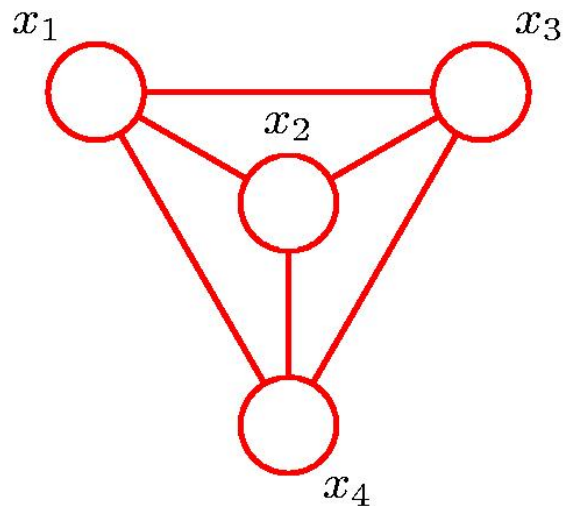
Lecture 4

# Graphical Models

- Probabilistic graphical models provide a powerful framework for representing **dependency structure between random variables**.
- Graphical models offer several useful properties:
  - They provide **a simple way to visualize the structure of a probabilistic model** and can be used to motivate new models.
  - They provide **various insights into the properties of the model**, including conditional independence.
  - Complex computations (e.g. inference and learning in sophisticated models) can be expressed in terms of **graphical manipulations**.

# Graphical Models

- A graph contains a set of nodes (vertices) connected by links (edges or arcs)



- In a probabilistic graphical model, each **node** represents a **random variable**, and **links** represent **probabilistic dependencies** between random variables.
- The graph specifies the way in which the joint distribution over all random variables decomposes into a **product of factors**, where each factor depends on a subset of the variables.
- Two types of graphical models:
  - **Bayesian networks**, also known as Directed Graphical Models (the links have a particular directionality indicated by the arrows)
  - **Markov Random Fields**, also known as Undirected Graphical Models (the links do not carry arrows and have no directional significance).
- **Hybrid graphical models** that combine directed and undirected graphical models, such as Deep Belief Networks.

# Bayesian Networks

- Directed Graphs are useful for expressing **causal relationships** between random variables.
- Let us consider an arbitrary joint distribution  $p(a, b, c)$  over three random variables  $a, b$ , and  $c$ .
- Note that at this point, we do not need to specify anything else about these variables (e.g. whether they are discrete or continuous).
- By application of the **product rule of probability** (twice), we get

$$p(a, b, c) = p(c|a, b)p(a, b) = p(c|a, b)p(b|a)p(a)$$

- This decomposition holds for any choice of the joint distribution.

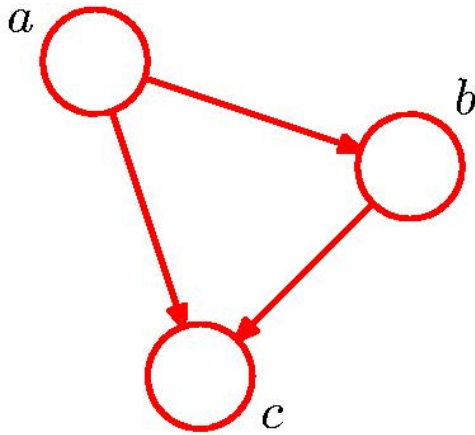


# Bayesian Networks

- By application of the product rule of probability (twice), we get

$$p(a, b, c) = p(c|a, b)p(a, b) = p(c|a, b)p(b|a)p(a)$$

- Represent the joint distribution in terms of a simple graphical model:



- Introduce a node for each of the random variables.
- Associate each node with the corresponding conditional distribution in above equation.
- For each conditional distribution we add directed links to the graph from the nodes corresponding to the variables on which the distribution is conditioned.

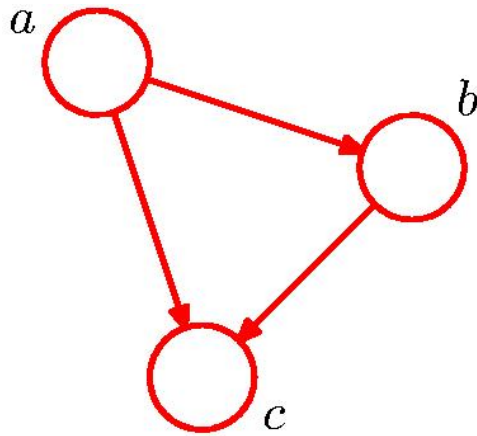
- Hence for the factor  $p(c|a, b)$ , there will be links from nodes a and b to node c.
- For the factor  $p(a)$ , there will be no incoming links.

# Bayesian Networks

- By application of the product rule of probability (twice), we get

$$p(a, b, c) = p(c|a, b)p(a, b) = p(c|a, b)p(b|a)p(a)$$

- If there is a link going from node a to node b, then we say that:



- node a is a **parent** of node b.
- node b is a **child** of node a.

- For the decomposition, we choose **a specific ordering** of the random variables: a,b,c.

- If we chose a **different ordering**, we would get a **different graphical representation** (we will come back to that point later).

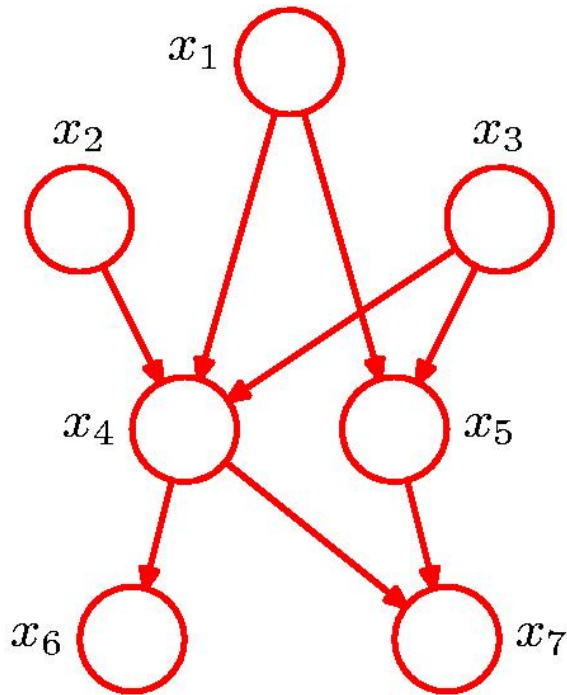
- The joint distribution over K variables factorizes:

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_K) = p(x_K|x_1, \dots, x_{K-1}) \dots p(x_2|x_1)p(x_1)$$

- If each node has incoming links from all lower numbered nodes, then the graph is **fully connected**; there is a link between all pairs of nodes.

# Bayesian Networks

- **Absence of links** conveys certain information about the properties of the class of distributions that the graph conveys.



- Note that this graph is not fully connected (e.g. there is no link from  $x_1$  to  $x_2$ ).

- The joint distribution over  $x_1, \dots, x_7$  can be written as a **product of a set of conditional distributions**.

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_7) = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3)p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3) \\ p(x_5|x_1, x_3)p(x_6|x_4)p(x_7|x_4, x_5)$$

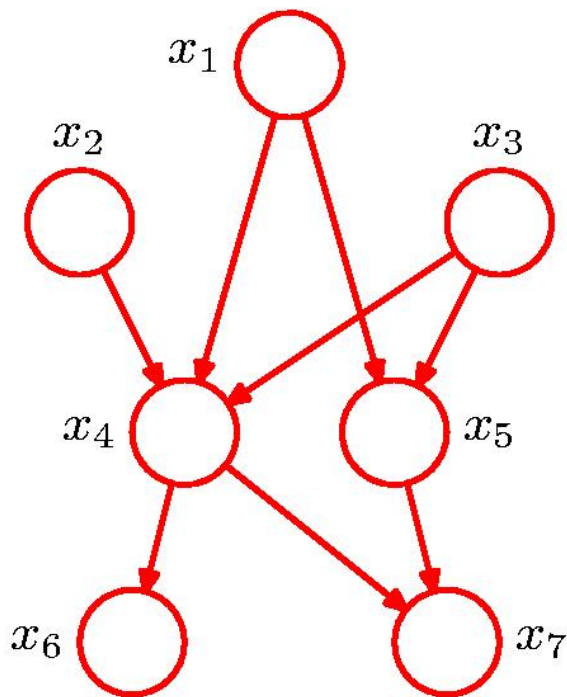
- Note that according to the graph,  $x_5$  will be conditioned only on  $x_1$  and  $x_3$ .

# Factorization Property

- The joint distribution defined by the graph is given by **the product of a conditional distribution** for each node conditioned on its parents:

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{k=1}^K p(x_k | \text{pa}_k)$$

where  $\text{pa}_k$  denotes a set of parents for the node  $x_k$ .



- This equation expresses a **key factorization property of the joint distribution** for a directed graphical model.

- Important restriction: There must be **no directed cycles!**

- Such graphs are also called **directed acyclic graphs (DAGs)**.

# Bayesian Curve Fitting

- As an example, remember [Bayesian polynomial regression model](#):

$$y(x, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j=0}^M w_j x^j$$

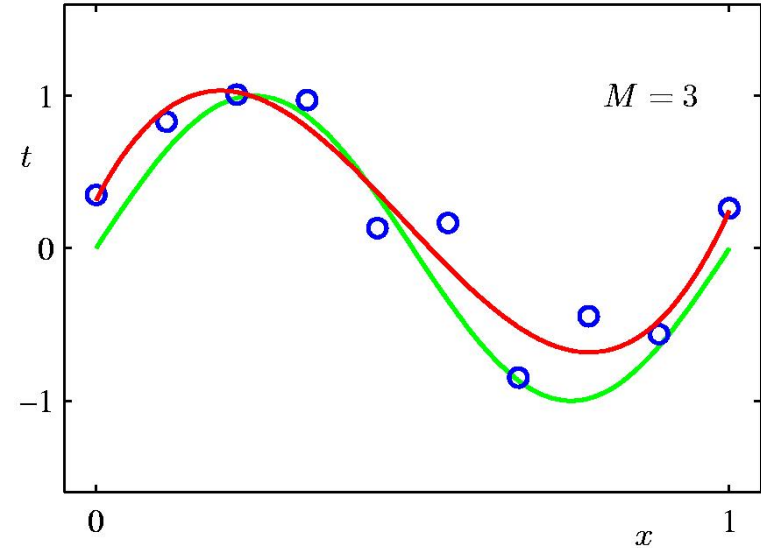
- We are given inputs  $\mathbf{X} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\}$  and target values  $\mathbf{t} = [t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N]^T$ .

- Given the prior over parameters, the joint distribution is given by:

$$p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{w}) \prod_{i=1}^N p(t_n | y(\mathbf{w}, x_n)).$$

Prior term

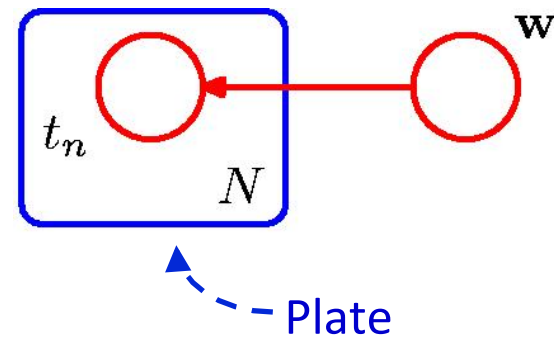
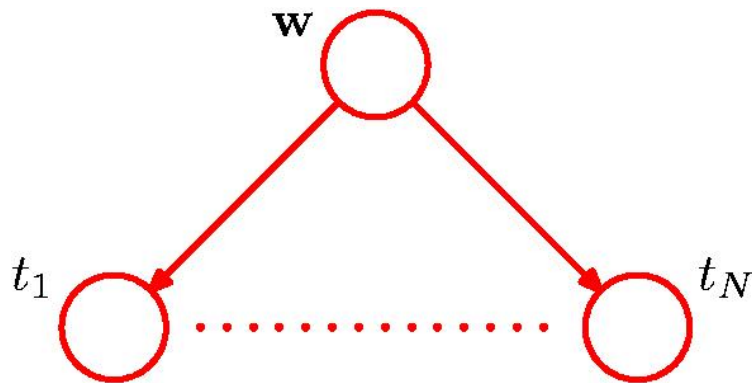
Likelihood term



# Graphical Representation

$$p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{w}) \prod_{i=1}^N p(t_n | y(\mathbf{w}, x_n)).$$

- This distribution can be represented as a graphical model.
- Same representation using plate notation.

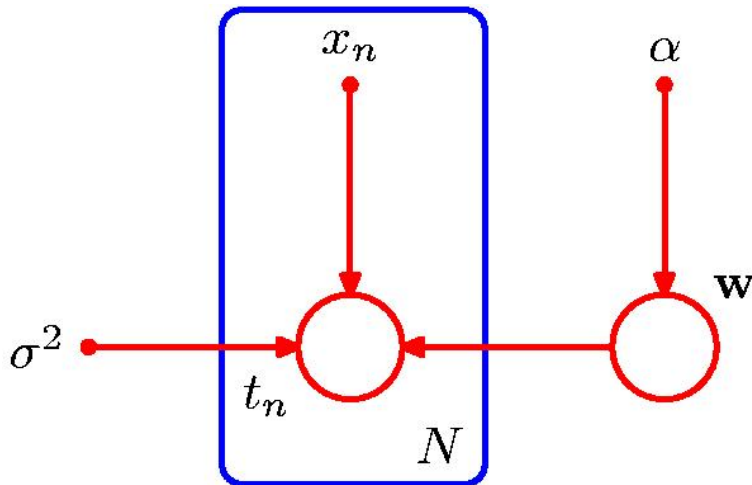


- **Compact representation:** we introduce a plate that represents  $N$  nodes of which only a single example  $t_n$  is shown explicitly.
- Note that  $w$  and  $\mathbf{t} = [t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N]^T$  represent random variables.

# Graphical Representation

- It will often be useful to make the parameters of the model as well as random variables be explicit.

$$p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) = p(\mathbf{w} | \alpha) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | \mathbf{w}, x_n, \sigma^2).$$



$$p(\mathbf{w} | \alpha) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{0}, \alpha \mathbf{I}),$$

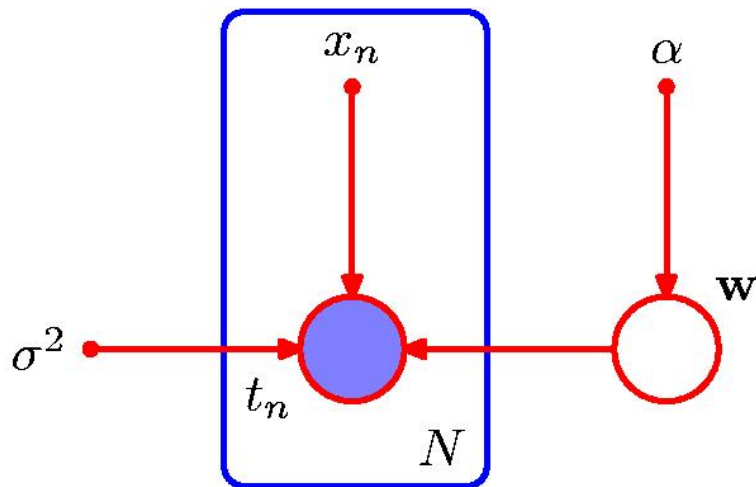
$$p(t_n | \mathbf{w}, x_n, \sigma^2) = \mathcal{N}(t_n | y(\mathbf{w}, x_n), \sigma^2),$$

$$y(x, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j=0}^M w_j x^j$$

- Random variables will be denoted by open circles and deterministic parameters will be denoted by smaller solid circles.

# Graphical Representation

- When we apply a graphical model to a problem in machine learning, we will set some of the variables to specific observed values (e.g. condition on the data).



$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}) \propto p(\mathbf{w}) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n|\mathbf{w})$$

- For example, having observed the values of the targets  $\{t_n\}$  on the training data, we wish to infer the posterior distribution over parameters  $w$ .
- In this example, we conditioned on observed data  $\mathbf{t} = [t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N]^T$  by shadowing the corresponding nodes.



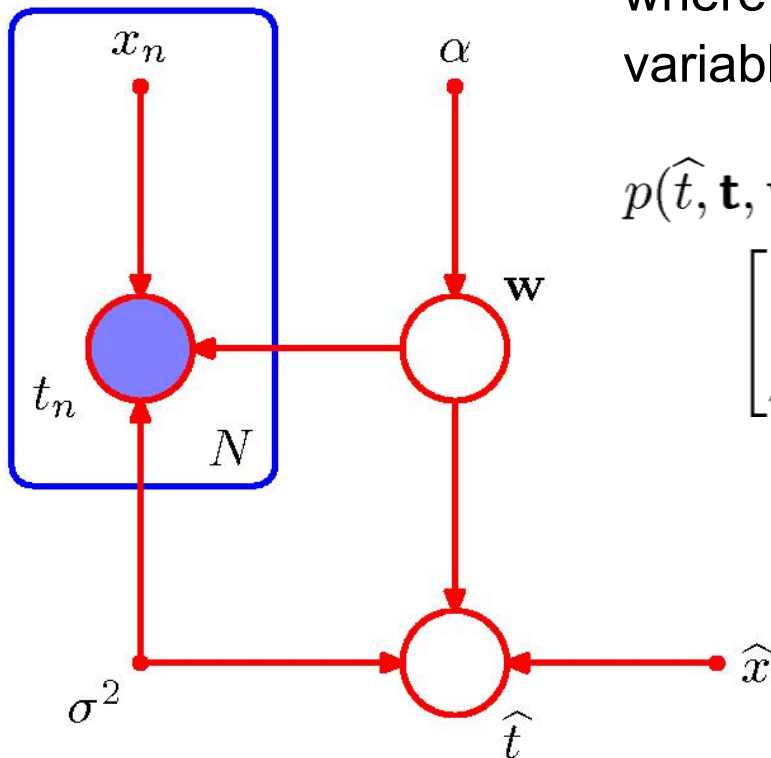
# Predictive Distribution

- We may also be interested in making predictions for a new input value  $\hat{x}$ .

$$p(\hat{t}|\hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \sigma^2) \propto \int p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w}|\hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) d\mathbf{w}$$

where the joint distribution of all of the random variables is given by:

$$p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w}|\hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) = \left[ \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n|x_n, \mathbf{w}, \sigma^2) \right] p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)p(\hat{t}|\hat{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma^2)$$

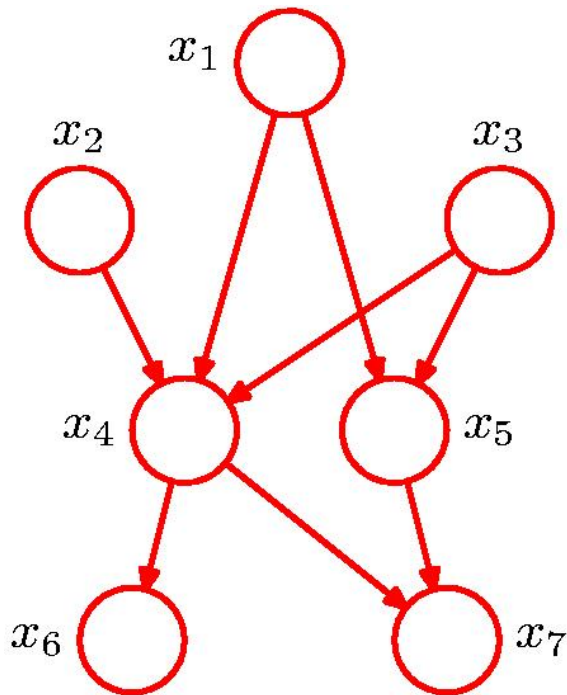


- Here we are setting the random variables in  $\mathbf{t}$  to the specific values observed in the data.

# Ancestral Sampling

- Consider a joint distribution over  $K$  random variables  $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K)$  that factorizes as:

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{k=1}^K p(x_k | \text{pa}_k)$$



- Our goal is draw a **sample from this distribution**.
- Start at the top and sample in order.

$$\hat{x}_1 \sim p(x_1)$$

$$\hat{x}_2 \sim p(x_2)$$

$$\hat{x}_3 \sim p(x_3)$$

$$\hat{x}_4 \sim p(x_4 | \hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \hat{x}_3)$$

$$\hat{x}_5 \sim p(x_5 | \hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_3)$$

The parent variables are set to their sampled values

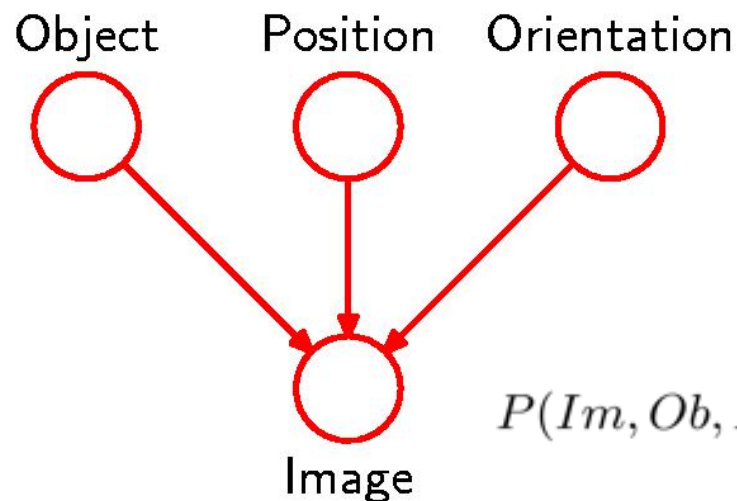


- To obtain a sample from **the marginal distribution**, e.g.  $p(x_2, x_5)$ , we sample from the full joint distribution, retain  $\hat{x}_2, \hat{x}_5$ , and discard the remaining values.

# Generative Models

- Higher-level nodes will typically represent **latent (hidden) random variables**.
- The primary role of the latent variables is to allow a complicated distribution over observed variables to be constructed from simpler (**typically exponential family**) conditional distributions.

## Generative Model of an Image



- Object identity, position, and orientation have independent **prior probabilities**.

- The image has a probability distribution that depends on the object identity, position, and orientation (**likelihood function**).

$$P(Im, Ob, Po, Or) = \underbrace{P(Im|Ob, Po, Or)}_{\text{Likelihood}} \underbrace{P(Ob)P(Po)P(Or)}_{\text{Prior}}$$

- The graphical model captures the **causal process**, by which the observed data was generated (hence the name **generative models**).

# Discrete Variables

- We now examine the discrete random variables.
- Assume that we have two discrete random variables  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , each of which has  $K$  states.



$$p(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{l=1}^K \mu_{kl}^{x_{1k} x_{2l}}$$

- Using 1-of- $K$  encoding, we denote the probability of **observing both**  $x_{1k}=1$ ,  $x_{2l}=1$  by the parameter  $\mu_{kl}$ , where  $x_{1k}$  denotes the  $k^{\text{th}}$  component of  $x_1$  (similarly for  $x_2$ ).
- This distribution is governed by  $K^2 - 1$  parameters.
- The total number of parameters that must be specified for an arbitrary joint distribution over  $M$  random variables is  $K^M - 1$  (corresponds to a **fully connected graph**).
- **Grows exponentially** in the number of variables  $M$ !

# Discrete Variables

- General joint distribution:  $K^2-1$  parameters.



$$p(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{l=1}^K \mu_{kl}^{x_{1k} x_{2l}}$$

- Independent joint distribution:  $2(K-1)$  parameters.



$$\hat{p}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_{1k}^{x_{1k}} \prod_{l=1}^K \mu_{2l}^{x_{2l}}$$

- We dropped the link between the nodes, so each variables is described by a separate multinomial distribution.

# Discrete Variables

- In general:
  - Fully connected graphs have completely general distributions and have exponential  $K^M-1$  number of parameters (**too complex**).
  - If there are no links, the joint distribution fully factorizes into the product of the marginals, and has  $M(K-1)$  parameters (**too simple**).
  - Graphs that have an **intermediate level of connectivity** allow for more general distributions compared to the fully factorized one, while requiring fewer parameters than the general joint distribution.
  
- Let us look at the example of the chain graph.

# Chain Graph

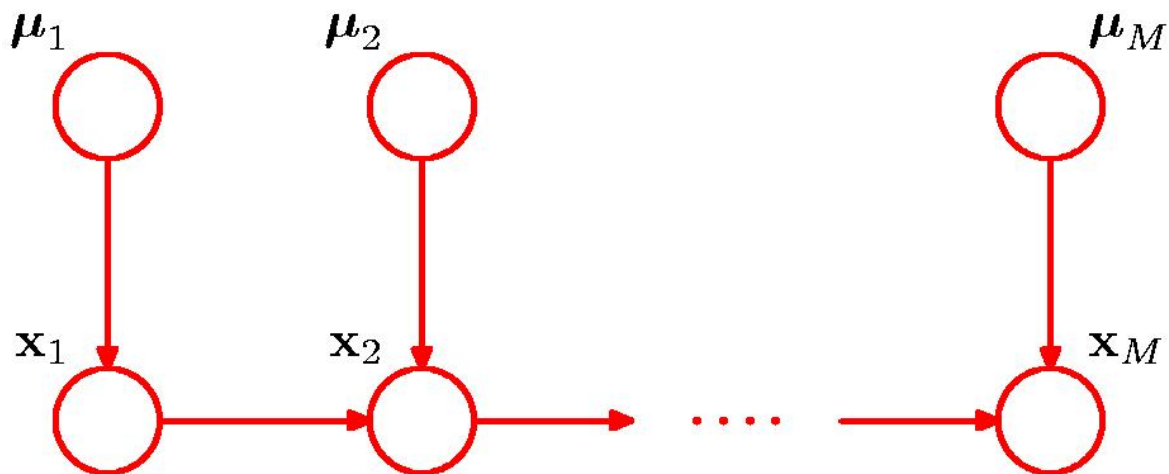
- Consider an M-node Markov chain:



- The marginal distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}_1)$  requires  $K-1$  parameters.
- The remaining conditional distributions  $p(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{i-1}), i = 2, \dots, M$  require  $K(K-1)$  parameters.
- Total number of parameters:  $K-1 + (M-1)(K-1)K$ , which is quadratic in  $K$  and linear in the length  $M$  of the chain.
- This graphical model forms the basis of a simple **Hidden Markov Model**.

# Adding Priors

- We can turn a graph over discrete random variables into a Bayesian model by introducing Dirichlet priors for the parameters.
- From a graphical model point of view, each node acquires an additional parent representing the Dirichlet distribution over parameters.



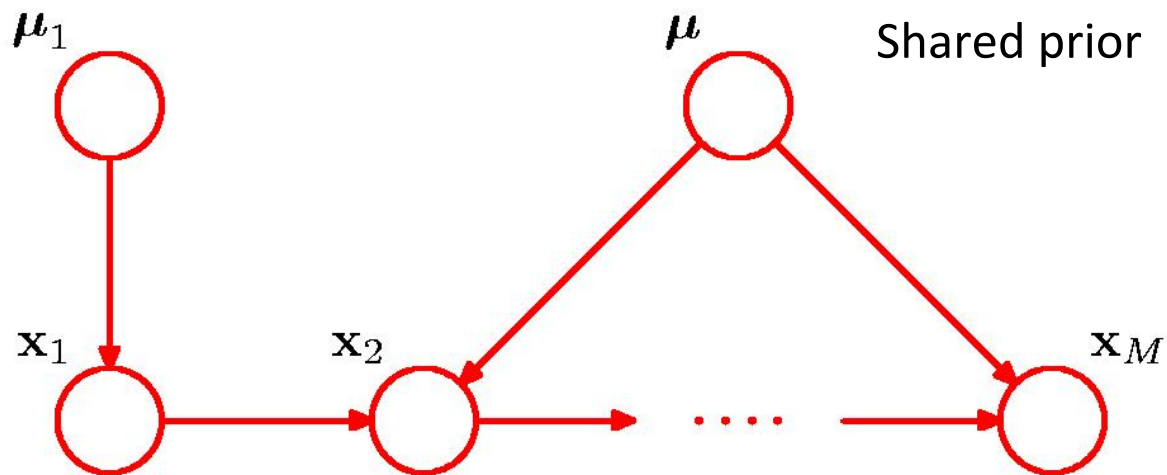
$$p(\{\mathbf{x}_m, \boldsymbol{\mu}_m\}) = p(\mathbf{x}_1 | \boldsymbol{\mu}_1) p(\boldsymbol{\mu}_1) \prod_{m=2}^M p(\mathbf{x}_m | \mathbf{x}_{m-1}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_m) p(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m)$$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m) = \text{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m | \boldsymbol{\alpha}_m)$$



# Shared Prior

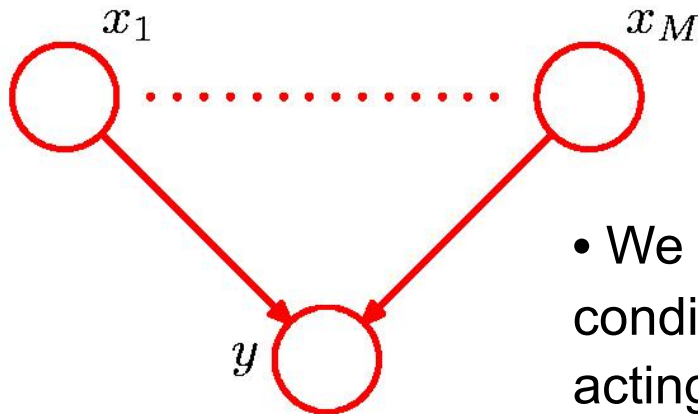
- We can further share the common prior over the parameters governing the conditional distributions.



$$p(\{\mathbf{x}_m\}, \mu_1, \mu) = p(\mathbf{x}_1 | \mu_1) p(\mu_1) \prod_{m=2}^M p(\mathbf{x}_m | \mathbf{x}_{m-1}, \mu) p(\mu)$$

# Parameterized Models

- We can use parameterized models to control exponential growth in the number of parameters.



If  $x_1, \dots, x_M$  are discrete,  $K$ -state variables,  $p(y = 1 | x_1, \dots, x_M)$  in general has  $O(K^M)$  parameters.

- We can obtain a more parsimonious form of the conditional distribution by using a logistic function acting on a **linear combination of the parent variables**:

$$p(y = 1 | x_1, \dots, x_M) = \sigma \left( w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^M w_i x_i \right) = \sigma(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x})$$

- This is a more restricted form of conditional distribution, but it requires only  $M+1$  parameters (linear growth in the number of parameters).

# Linear Gaussian Models

- So far we worked with joint probability distributions over a set of discrete random variables (expressed as nodes in directed acyclic graphs).
- We now show how a **multivariate Gaussian distribution** can be expressed as a **directed graph** corresponding to a **linear Gaussian model**.
- Consider an arbitrary acyclic graph over  $D$  random variables, in which each node represent a single continuous Gaussian distribution with its mean given by the linear function of the parents:

$$p(x_i | \text{pa}_i) = \mathcal{N} \left( x_i \mid \sum_{j \in \text{pa}_i} w_{ij} x_j + b_i, v_i \right)$$

where  $w_{ij}$  and  $b_i$  are parameters governing the mean, and  $v_i$  is the variance.

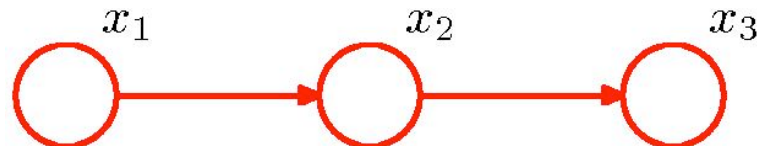
# Linear Gaussian Models

- The log of the joint distribution takes form:

$$\ln p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^D \ln p(x_i | \text{pa}_i) = - \sum_{i=1}^D \frac{1}{2v_i} \left( x_i - \sum_{j \in \text{pa}_i} w_{ij} x_j - b_i \right)^2 + \text{const},$$

where 'const' denotes terms independent of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

- This is a quadratic function of  $\mathbf{x}$ , and hence the joint distribution  $p(\mathbf{x})$  is a **multivariate Gaussian**.
- For example, consider a directed graph over three Gaussian variables with one missing link:



# Computing the Mean

- We can determine the mean and covariance of the joint distribution.

Remember:

$$p(x_i | \text{pa}_i) = \mathcal{N} \left( x_i \mid \sum_{j \in \text{pa}_i} w_{ij} x_j + b_i, v_i \right)$$

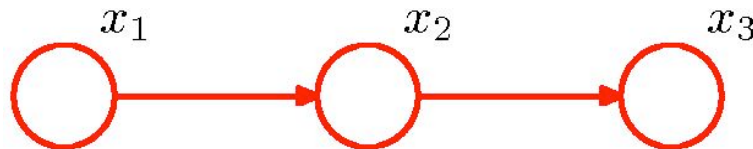
hence

$$x_i = \sum_{j \in \text{pa}_i} w_{ij} x_j + b_i + \sqrt{v_i} \epsilon_i, \quad \epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1),$$

so its expected value:

$$\mathbb{E}[x_i] = \sum_{j \in \text{pa}_i} w_{ij} \mathbb{E}[x_j] + b_i.$$

- Hence we can find components:  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = [\mathbb{E}[x_1], \dots, \mathbb{E}[x_D]]$  by doing **ancestral pass**: start at the top and proceed in order (see example):



# Computing the Covariance

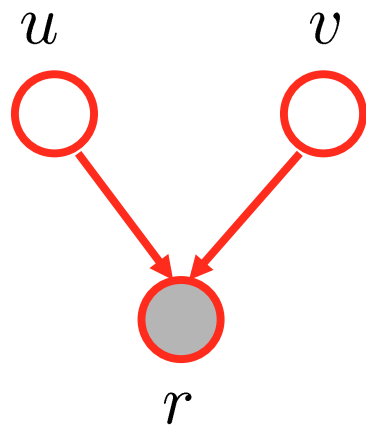
- We can obtain the  $i,j$  element of the covariance matrix in the form of a recursion relation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}[x_i, x_j] &= \mathbb{E} [(x_i - \mathbb{E}[x_i])(x_j - \mathbb{E}[x_j])] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[ (x_i - \mathbb{E}[x_i]) \left( \sum_{k \in \text{pa}_j} w_{jk} (x_k - \mathbb{E}[x_k]) + \sqrt{v_j} \epsilon_j \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{k \in \text{pa}_j} w_{jk} \text{cov}[x_i, x_k] + I_{ij} v_j.\end{aligned}$$

- Consider two cases:
  - There are no links in the graph (**graph is fully factorized**), so that  $w_{ij}$ 's are zero. In this case:  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = [b_1, \dots, b_D]^T$ , and the covariance is diagonal  $\text{diag}(v_1, \dots, v_D)$ . The joint distribution represents  $D$  independent univariate Gaussian distributions.
  - The graph is **fully connected**. The total number of parameters is  $D + D(D-1)/2$ . The covariance corresponds to a general symmetric covariance matrix.

# Bilinear Gaussian Model

- Consider the following model:

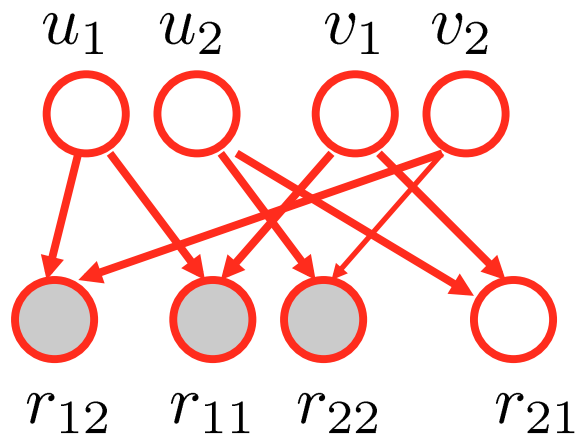


$$u \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1),$$

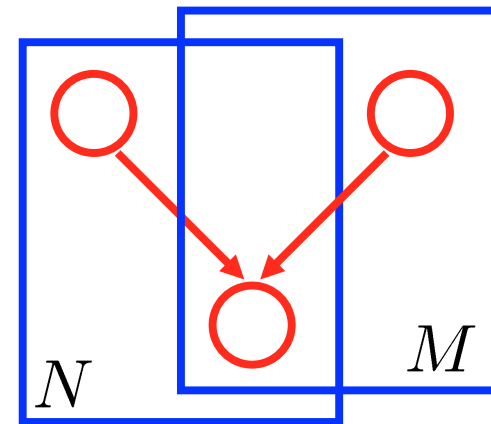
$$v \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1),$$

$$r \sim \mathcal{N}(uv, 1).$$

↑ ↑  
Gaussian terms



	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪
i	★★☆	?	?	★★☆	★★☆
i	?	★★☆	★★★★	?	★★★★
i	★★★★	?	★★☆	★★★★	?



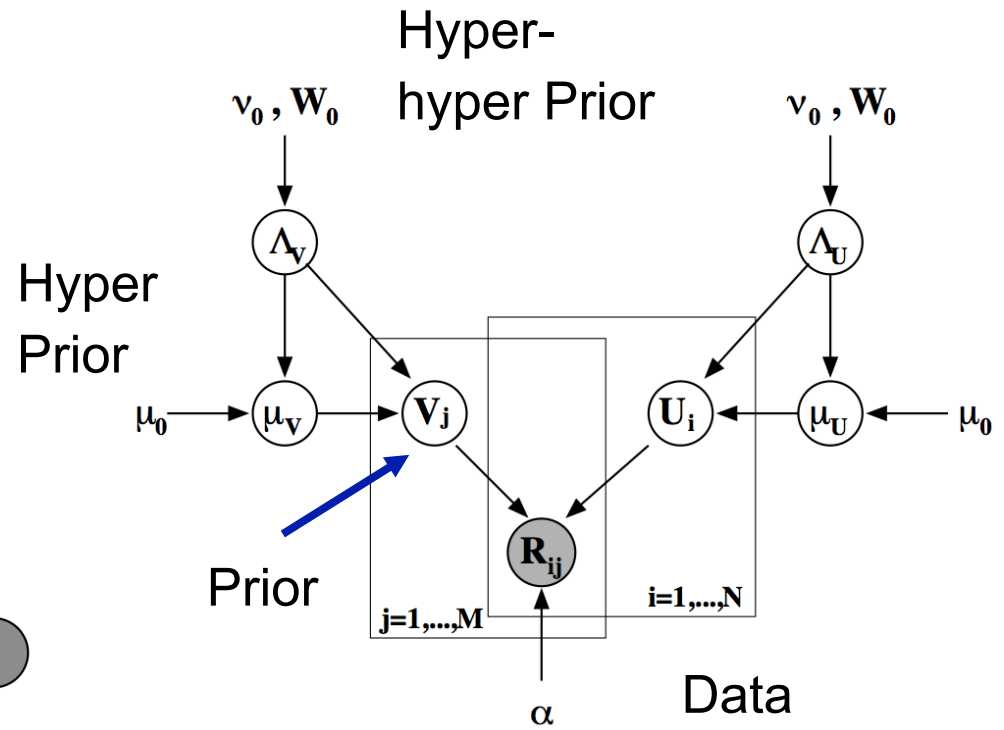
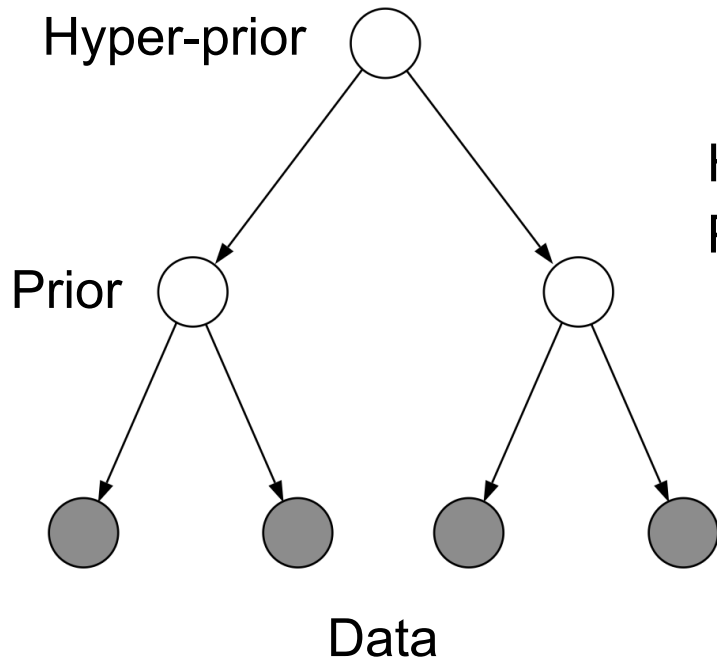
$$u_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$v_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1), \quad j = 1, \dots, M$$

$$r_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(u_i v_j, 1).$$

- The mean is given by the product of two Gaussians.

# Hierarchical Models





# Conditional Independence

- We now look at the concept of conditional independence.
- $a$  is independent of  $b$  given  $c$ :

$$p(a|b, c) = p(a|c)$$

- Equivalently:

$$\begin{aligned} p(a, b|c) &= p(a|b, c)p(b|c) \\ &= p(a|c)p(b|c) \end{aligned}$$

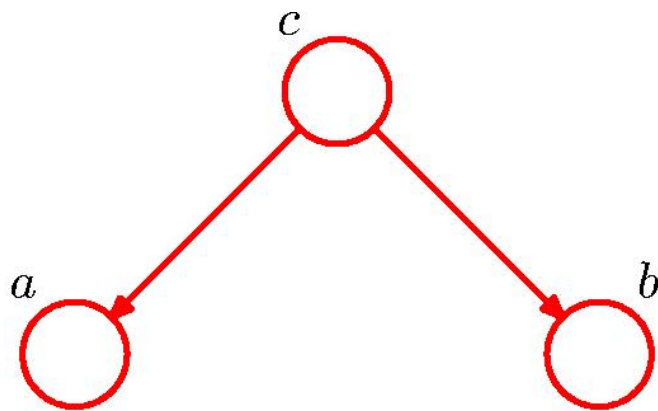
- We will use the notation:

$$a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid c$$

- An important feature of graphical models is that **conditional independence properties** of the joint distribution can be read directly from the graph without performing any analytical manipulations
- The general framework for achieving this is called **d-separation**, where d stands for 'directed' (Pearl 1988).

# Example 1: Tail-to-Tail Node

- The joint distribution over three variables can be written:



$$p(a, b, c) = p(a|c)p(b|c)p(c)$$

- If none of the variables are observed, we can examine whether **a** and **b** are independent:

$$p(a, b) = \sum_c p(a|c)p(b|c)p(c)$$

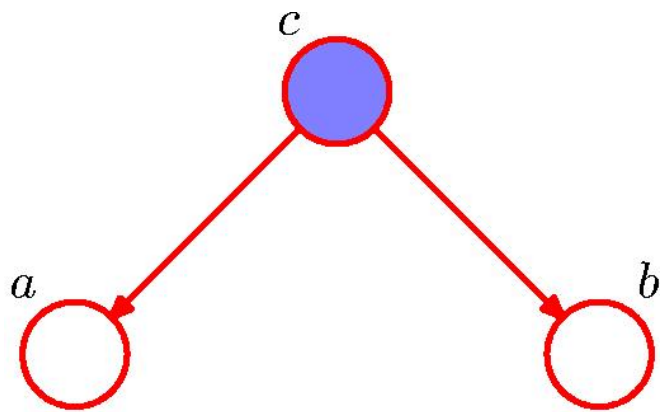
- In general, this does not factorize into the product  $p(a, b) = p(a)p(b)$ .

$$a \not\perp b \mid \emptyset$$

- a** and **b** have a **common cause**.
- The node **c** is said to be **tail-to-tail node** with respect to this path (the node is connected to the tails of the two arrows).

# Example 1: Tail-to-Tail Node

- Suppose we condition on the variable  $c$ :



$$\begin{aligned} p(a, b|c) &= \frac{p(a, b, c)}{p(c)} \\ &= p(a|c)p(b|c) \end{aligned}$$

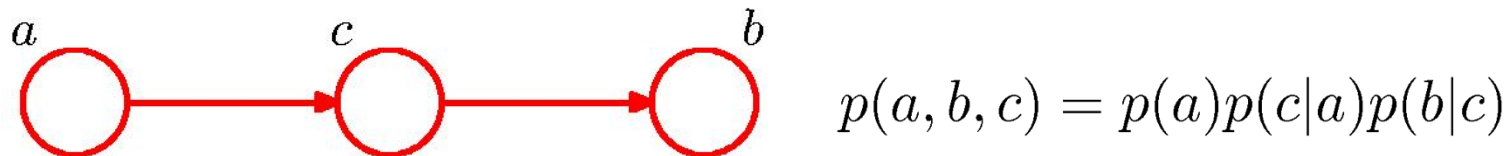
- We obtain **conditional independence property**:

$$a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid c$$

- Once  $c$  has been **observed**,  $a$  and  $b$  can no longer have any effect on each other. They become independent.

# Example 2: Head-to-Tail Node

- The joint distribution over three variables can be written:



- If none of the variables are observed, we can examine whether **a** and **b** are independent:

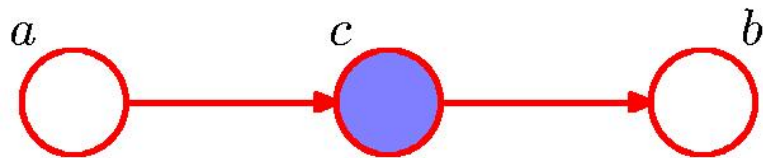
$$p(a, b) = p(a) \sum_c p(c|a)p(b|c) = p(a)p(b|a)$$

$a \not\perp b \mid \emptyset$

- If **c** is not observed, **a** can influence **c**, and **c** can influence **b**.
- The node **c** is said to be **head-to-tail node** with respect to the path from node **a** to node **b**.

# Example 2: Head-to-Tail Node

- Suppose we condition on the variable  $c$ :



$$\begin{aligned} p(a, b|c) &= \frac{p(a, b, c)}{p(c)} \\ &= \frac{p(a)p(c|a)p(b|c)}{p(c)} \\ &= p(a|c)p(b|c) \end{aligned}$$

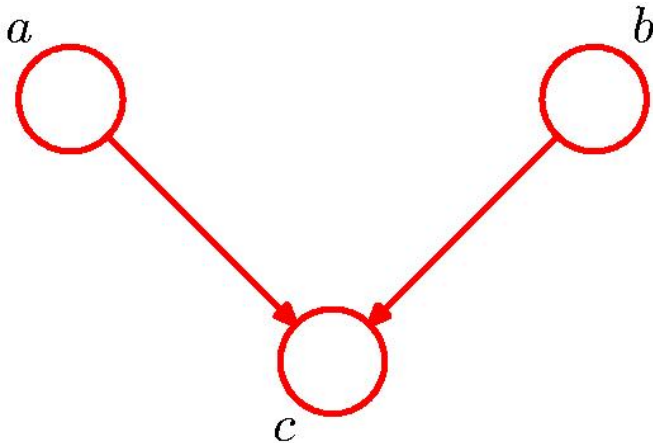
- We obtain **conditional independence property**:

$$a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid c$$

- If  $c$  is observed, the value of  $a$  can no longer influence  $b$ .

# Example 3: Head-to-Head Node

- The joint distribution over three variables can be written:



$$p(a, b, c) = p(a)p(b)p(c|a, b)$$

- If none of the variables are observed, we can examine whether **a** and **b** are independent:

$$p(a, b) = p(a)p(b)$$

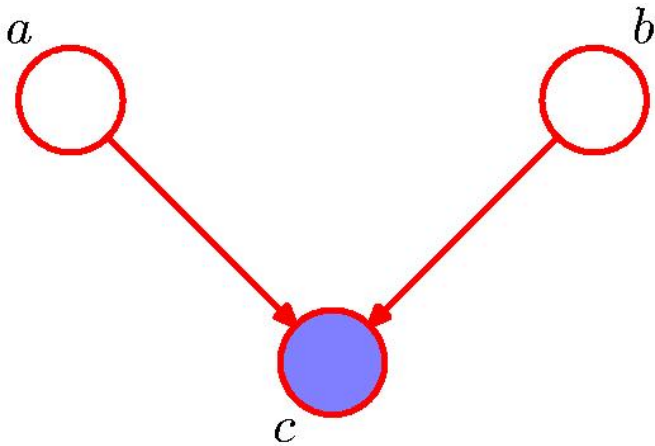
$$a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid \emptyset$$

- Opposite to Example 1.

- An unobserved descendant has no effect.
- The node **c** is said to be **head-to-head** node with respect to the path from **a** to **b** (because it connects to the heads of two arrows).

# Example 3: Head-to-Head Node

- Suppose we condition on the variable  $c$ :



$$\begin{aligned} p(a, b|c) &= \frac{p(a, b, c)}{p(c)} \\ &= \frac{p(a)p(b)p(c|a, b)}{p(c)} \end{aligned}$$

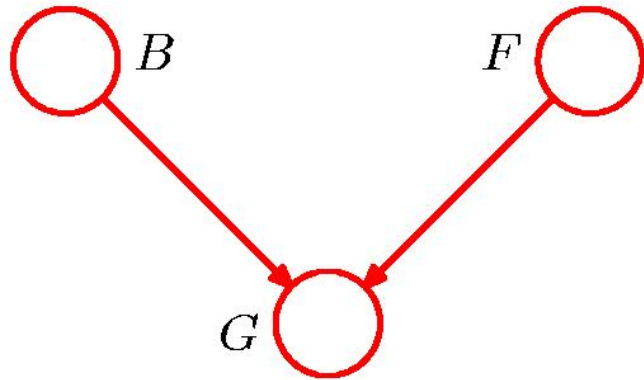
- In general, this does not factorize into the product.

$$a \not\perp b \mid c$$

- Opposite to Example 1.
- If the descendant (or any of its descendants) is observed, its value has implications for both  $a$  and  $b$ ,

# Fuel Example

- Consider the following example over three binary random variables:



$$p(B = 1) = 0.9$$

$$p(F = 1) = 0.9$$

and hence

$$p(F = 0) = 0.1$$

B = Battery (0=dead, 1=fully charged)

F = Fuel Tank (0=empty, 1=full)

G = Fuel Gauge Reading  
(0=empty, 1=full)

$$p(G = 1|B = 1, F = 1) = 0.8$$

$$p(G = 1|B = 1, F = 0) = 0.2$$

$$p(G = 1|B = 0, F = 1) = 0.2$$

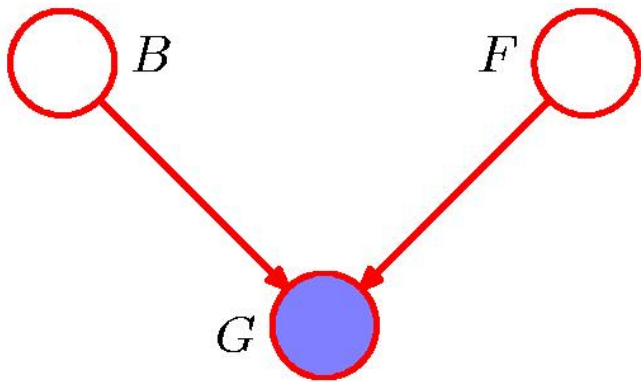
$$p(G = 1|B = 0, F = 0) = 0.1$$



# Fuel Example

- Suppose that we observe that the Fuel Gauge Reading is empty  $G = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} p(F = 0|G = 0) &= \frac{p(G = 0|F = 0)p(F = 0)}{p(G = 0)} \\ &\simeq 0.257 \end{aligned}$$



- Probability of an empty tank increased by observing  $G = 0$ .

B = Battery (0=dead, 1=fully charged)

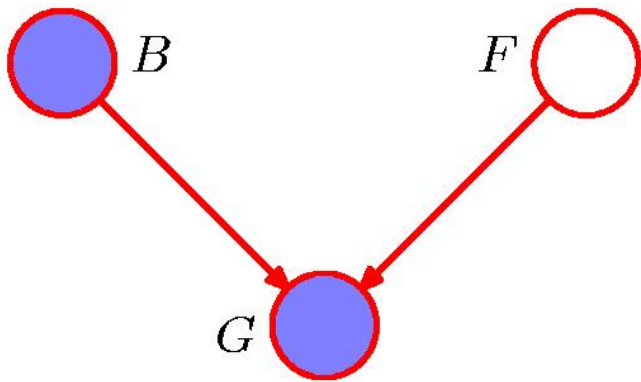
F = Fuel Tank (0=empty, 1=full)

G = Fuel Gauge Reading  
(0=empty, 1=full)

# Explaining Away

- If we observe that the Fuel Gauge Reading is empty  $G = 0$  and that the battery is dead  $B=0$ .

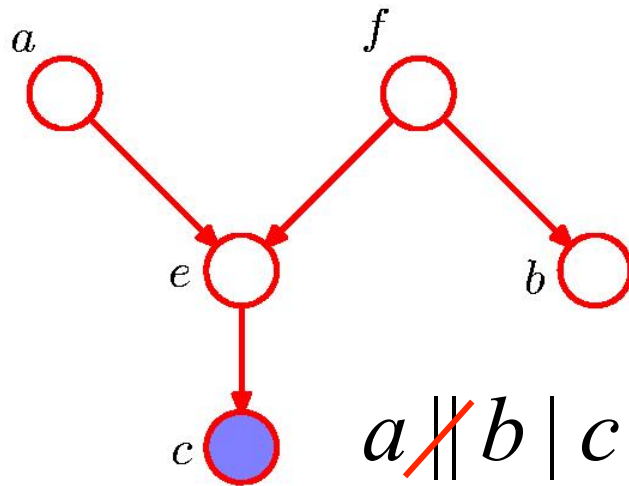
$$p(F = 0|G = 0, B = 0) = \frac{p(G = 0|B = 0, F = 0)p(F = 0)}{\sum_{F \in \{0,1\}} p(G = 0|B = 0, F)p(F)} \simeq 0.111$$



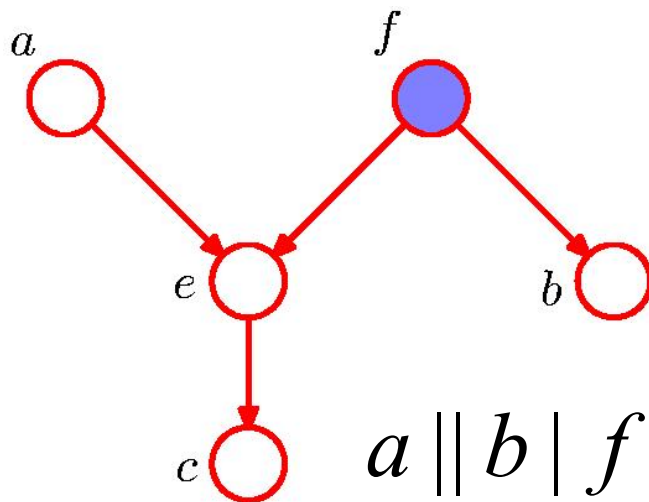
B = Battery (0=dead, 1=fully charged)  
F = Fuel Tank (0=empty, 1=full)  
G = Fuel Gauge Reading  
(0=empty, 1=full)

- Probability of an empty tank  $F=0$  is **reduced** by observing that the battery is dead  $B = 0$ .
- If we observe that the fuel gauge reading is empty, you assume that one of the causes happen (either the battery is dead or the fuel tank is empty).
- One cause removes **'explains away'** the need for the other cause.

# D-separation

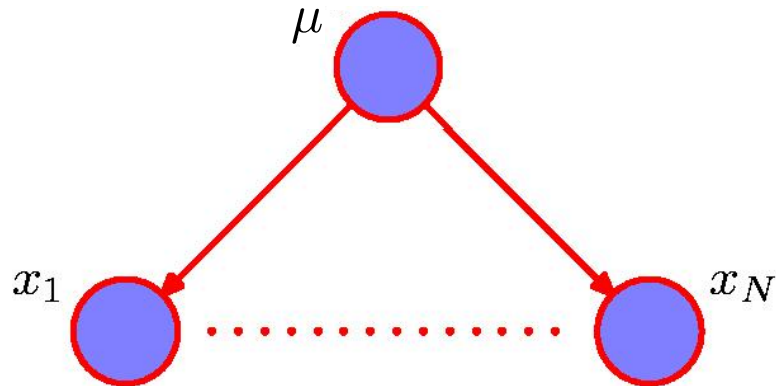


- $a$  is independent of  $b$  if and only if all paths connecting  $a$  and  $b$  are blocked.
- **head-to-tail** and **tail-to-tail** nodes are blocked when observed.
- **head-to-head** nodes are blocked when the node and all its descendants are unobserved.

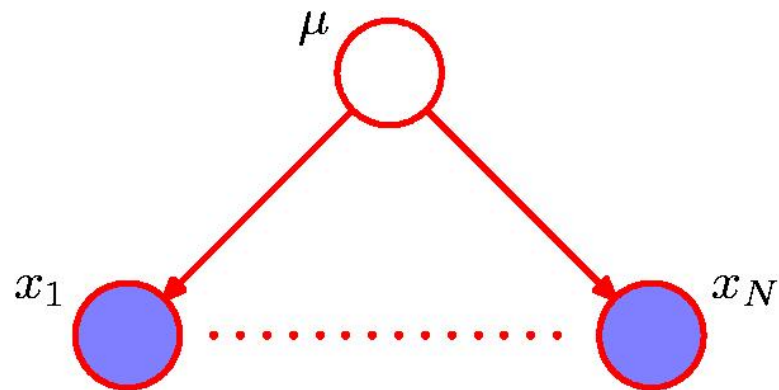


- For example (on top), the path from  $a$  to  $b$  is not blocked by  $f$  because it is **tail-to-tail** node and it is unobserved.
- But conditioned on  $f$ ,  $a$  and  $b$  become independent.

# D-separation and i.i.d data



$$p(\mathcal{D}|\mu) = \prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n|\mu)$$

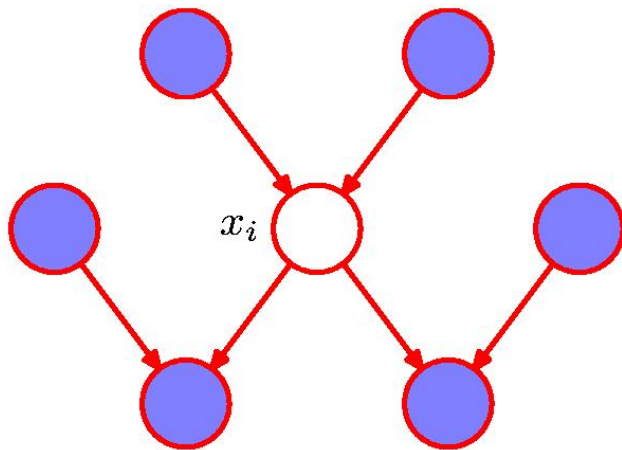


$$p(\mathcal{D}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(\mathcal{D}|\mu)p(\mu) d\mu \neq \prod_{n=1}^N p(x_n)$$

- Another example of conditional independence and d-separation is provided by the concept of **independent and identically distributed data**.
- Consider the problem of finding the posterior distribution over mean  $\mu$  in Bayesian linear regression model.
- Suppose that we condition on  $\mu$  and consider the joint over observed variables.
- Using **d-separation**, note that there is unique path from  $x_i$  to any other  $x_j$ , and this path is **head-to-head** with respect to  $\mu$ .
- If we integrate out  $\mu$ , the observations are no longer independent.

# Markov Blanket in Directed Models

- The **Markov blanket** of a node is the minimal set of nodes that must be observed to make this node independent of all other nodes
- In a directed model, the Markov blanket includes **parents, children** and **co-parents** (i.e. all the parents of the node's children) due to explaining away.

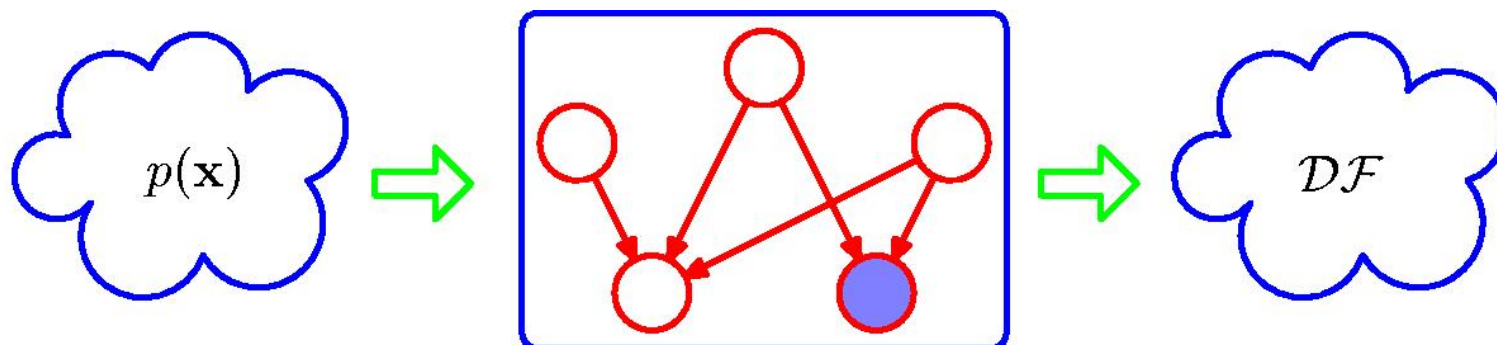


$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{\{j \neq i\}}) &= \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_M)}{\int p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_M) d\mathbf{x}_i} \\ &= \frac{\prod_k p(\mathbf{x}_k | \text{pa}_k)}{\int \prod_k p(\mathbf{x}_k | \text{pa}_k) d\mathbf{x}_i} \end{aligned}$$

Factors independent of  $x_i$  cancel between numerator and denominator.

# Directed Graphs as Distribution Filters

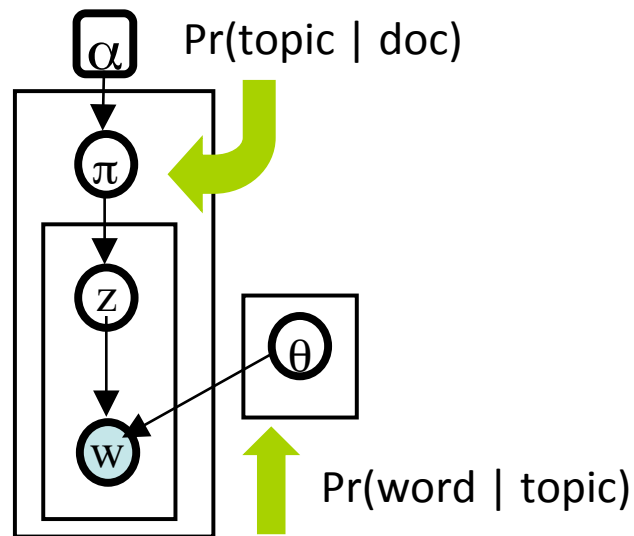
- We can view the graphical model as a filter.



- The joint probability distribution  $p(\mathbf{x})$  is allowed through the filter if and only if it satisfies the factorization property.
- Note: The fully connected graph exhibits **no conditional independence properties** at all.
- The fully disconnected graph (no links) corresponds to a joint distribution that factorizes into the **product of marginal distributions**.

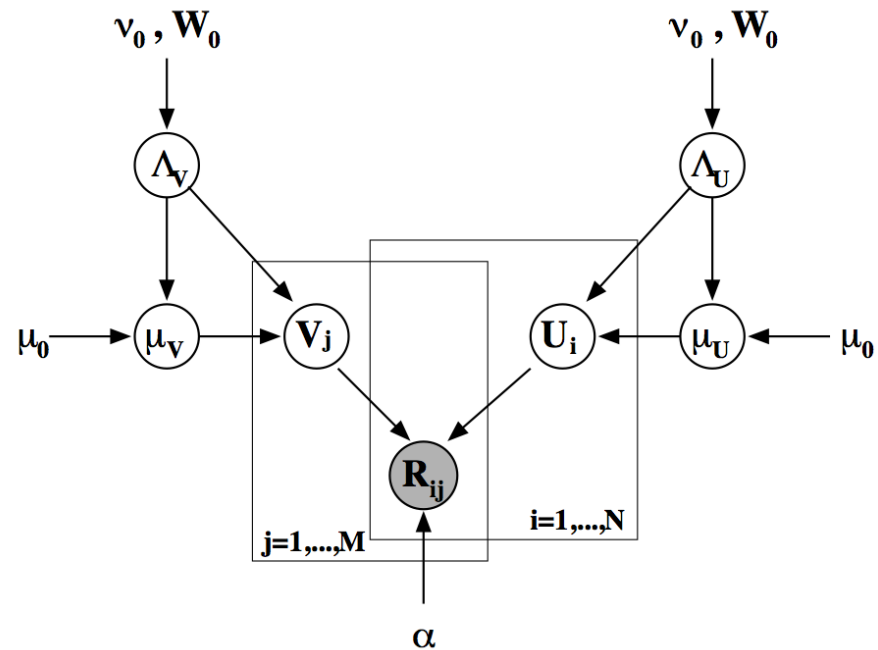
# Popular Models

## Latent Dirichlet Allocation



- One of the popular models for modeling word count vectors. We will see this model later.

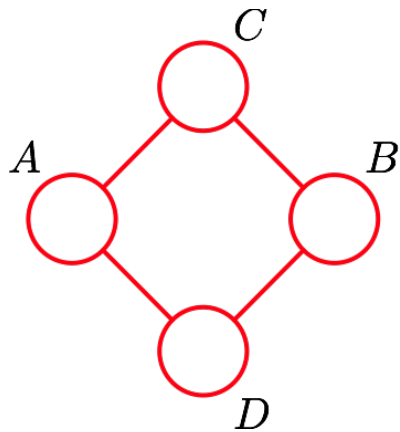
## Bayesian Probabilistic Matrix Factorization



- One of the popular models for collaborative filtering applications.

# Undirected Graphical Models

**Directed graphs** are useful for expressing **causal relationships** between random variables, whereas **undirected graphs** are useful for expressing **soft constraints** between random variables



- The joint distribution defined by the graph is given by the **product of non-negative potential functions** over the maximal cliques (connected subset of nodes).

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C) \quad \mathcal{Z} = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C)$$

where the normalizing constant  $\mathcal{Z}$  is called a partition function.

- For example, the joint distribution factorizes:

$$p(A, B, C, D) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \phi(A, C) \phi(C, B) \phi(B, D) \phi(A, D)$$

- Let us look at the definition of cliques.



# Cliques

- The subsets that are used to define the potential functions are represented by **maximal cliques** in the undirected graph.

- **Clique**: a subset of nodes such that there exists a link between all pairs of nodes in a subset.

- **Maximal Clique**: a clique such that it is not possible to include any other nodes in the set without it ceasing to be a clique.

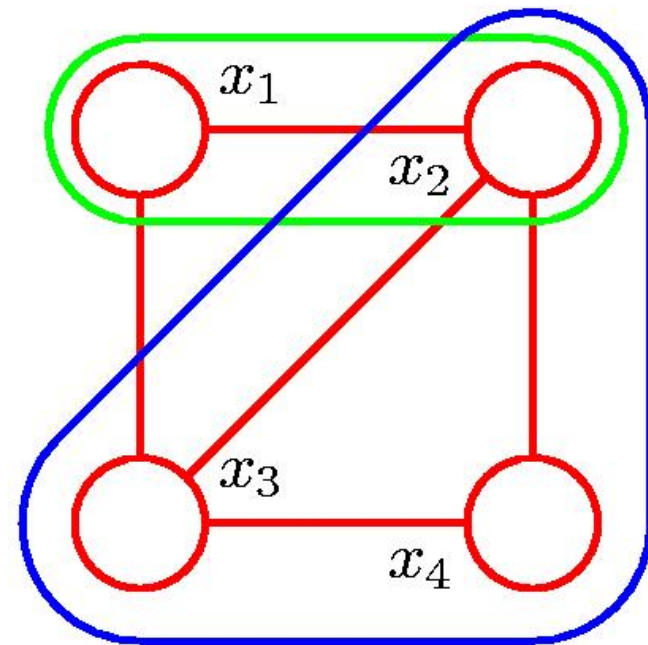
- This graph has 5 cliques:

$$\{x_1, x_2\}, \{x_2, x_3\}, \{x_3, x_4\},$$

$$\{x_4, x_2\}, \{x_1, x_3\}.$$

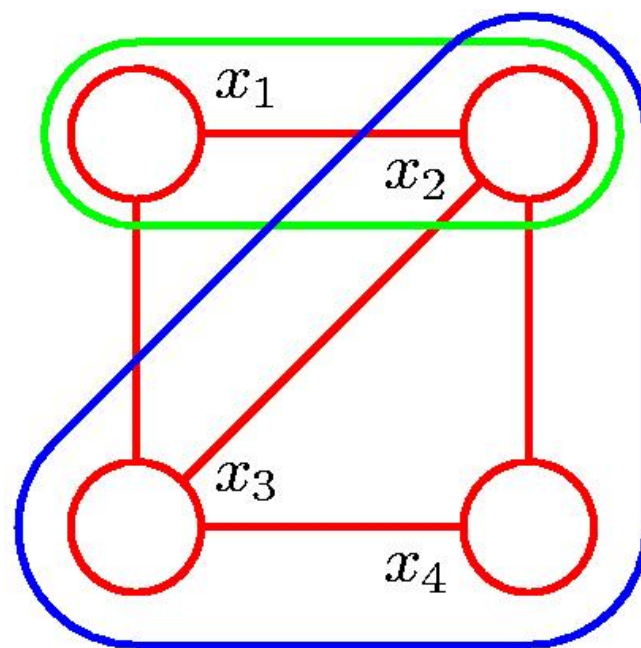
- Two maximal cliques:

$$\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}, \{x_2, x_3, x_4\}.$$

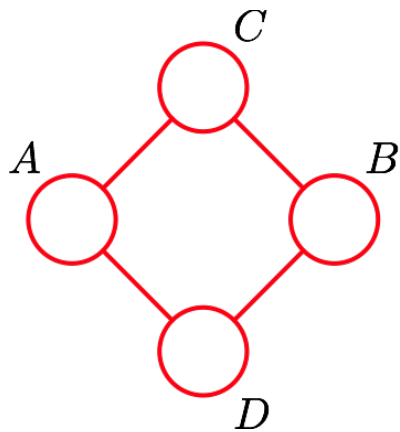


# Using Cliques to Represent Subsets

- If the potential functions only involve two nodes, an undirected graph has a nice representation.
- If the potential functions involve more than two nodes, using a different **factor graph representation** is much more useful.
- For now, let us consider only potential functions that are defined over **two nodes**.



# Markov Random Fields (MRFs)



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C)$$

- Each potential function is a mapping from the joint configurations of random variables in a clique to non-negative real numbers.
- The choice of potential functions is not restricted to having specific probabilistic interpretations.

Potential functions are often represented as exponentials:

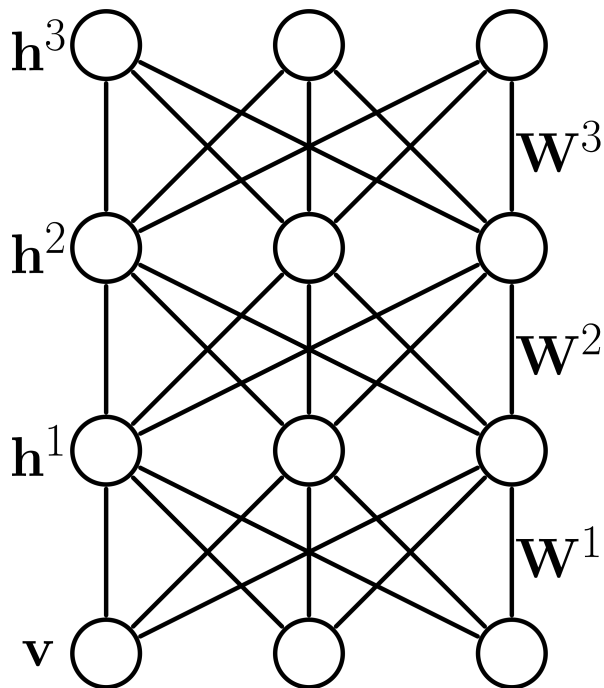
$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \exp\left(-\sum_C E(x_C)\right) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \underbrace{\exp(-E(\mathbf{x}))}_{\text{Boltzmann distribution}}$$

where  $E(\mathbf{x})$  is called an energy function.

Boltzmann distribution

# MRFs with Hidden Variables

For many interesting real-world problems, we need to introduce hidden or latent variables.



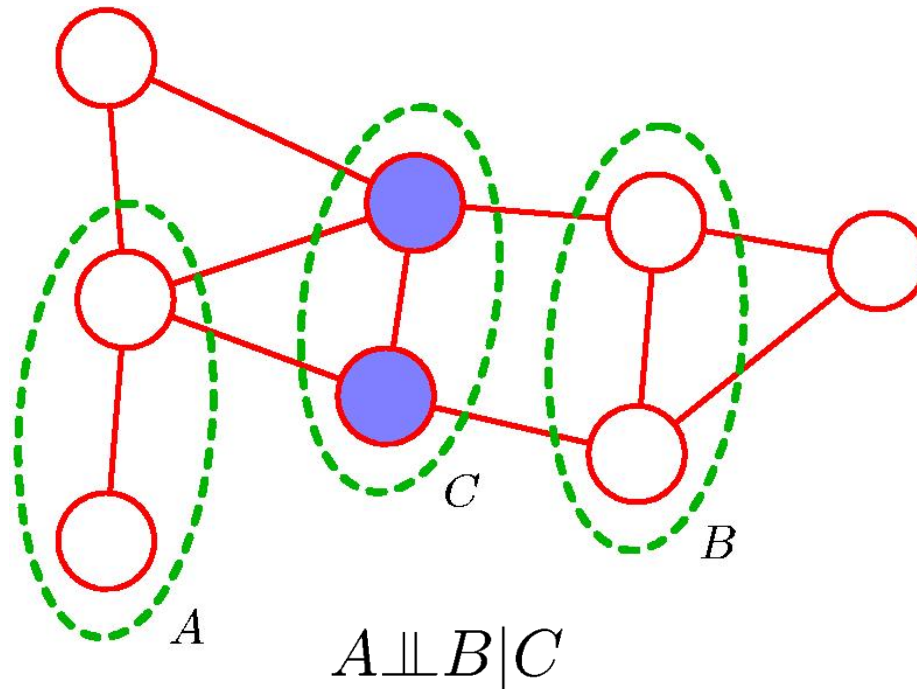
- Our random variables will contain both **visible and hidden** variables  $\mathbf{x}=(\mathbf{v},\mathbf{h})$ .

$$p(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \sum_{\mathbf{h}} \exp(-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}))$$

- In general, computing both **partition function and summation over hidden variables** will be intractable, except for special cases.
- Parameter learning becomes a very challenging task.

# Conditional Independence

- Conditional Independence is easier compared to directed models:

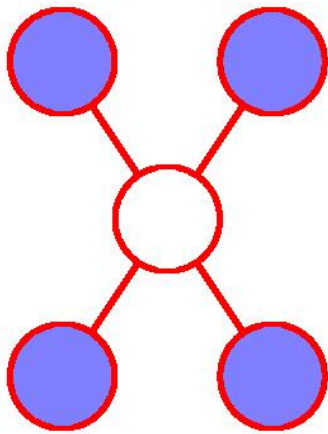


- Observation blocks a node.
- Two sets of nodes are conditionally independent if the observations block all paths between them.

# Markov Blanket

- The **Markov blanket** of a node is simply all of the directly connected nodes.

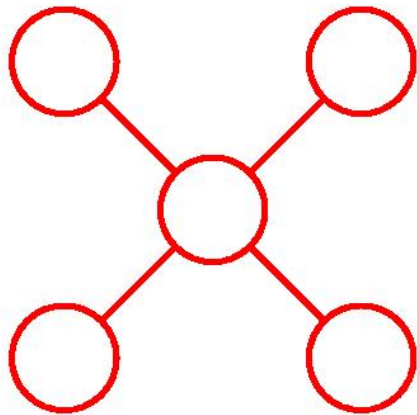
Markov Blanket



- This is simpler than in directed models, since there is **no explaining away**.
- The conditional distribution of  $x_i$  conditioned on all the variables in the graph is dependent only on the variables in the Markov blanket.

# Conditional Independence and Factorization

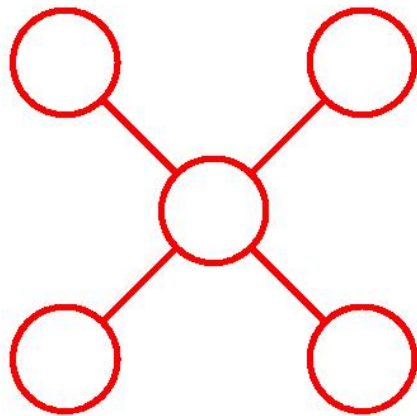
- Consider two sets of distributions:
  - The set of distributions consistent with the conditional independence relationships defined by the undirected graph.
  - The set of distributions consistent with the factorization defined by potential functions on maximal cliques of the graph.
- The **Hammersley-Clifford theorem** states that these two sets of distributions are the same.



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C)$$

# Interpreting Potentials

- In contrast to directed graphs, the potential functions **do not have a specific probabilistic interpretation.**



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \phi_C(x_C) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\sum_C E(x_C)\right)$$

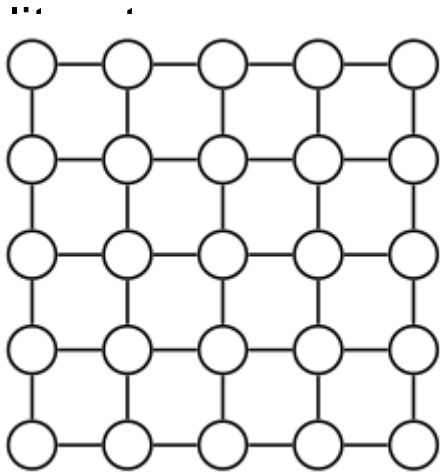
- This gives us greater flexibility in choosing the potential functions.

- We can view the potential function as expressing which configuration of the **local variables** are preferred to others.
- **Global configurations** with relatively high probabilities are those that find a good balance in satisfying the (possibly conflicting) influences of the clique potentials.
- So far we did not specify the nature of random variables, discrete or continuous.



# Discrete MRFs

- MRFs with all discrete variables are widely used in many applications.
- MRFs with **binary variables** are sometimes called **Ising models** in statistical mechanics, and **Boltzmann machines** in machine learning



- Denoting the binary valued variable at node  $j$  by  $x_j \in \{0, 1\}$ , the Ising model for the joint probabilities is given by:

$$P_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\theta)} \exp \left( \sum_{ij \in E} x_i x_j \theta_{ij} + \sum_{i \in V} x_i \theta_i \right)$$

- The conditional distribution is given by logistic:

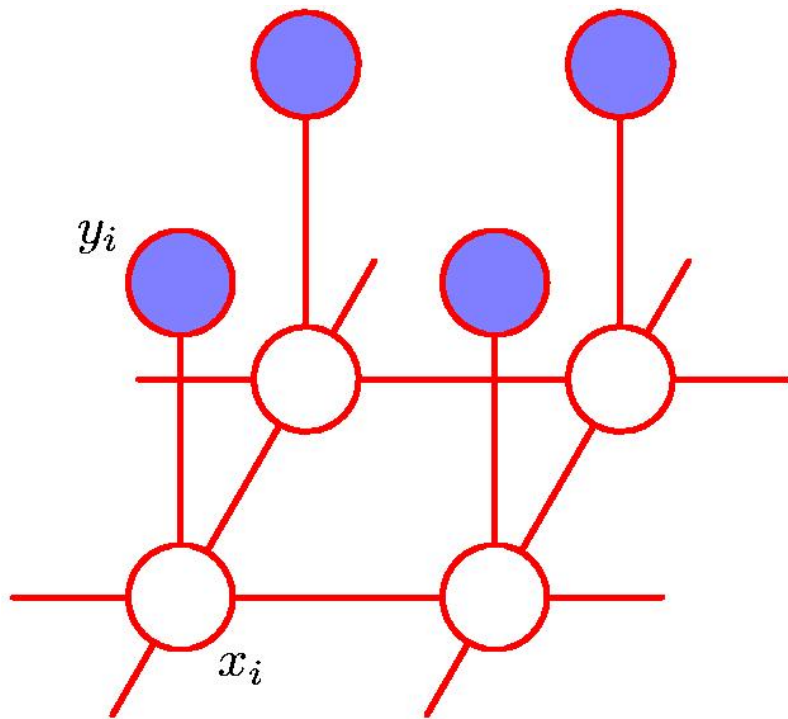
$$P_{\theta}(x_i = 1 | \mathbf{x}_{-i}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\theta_i - \sum_{ij \in E} x_j \theta_{ij})}, \quad \text{where } \mathbf{x}_{-i} \text{ denotes all nodes except for } i.$$

Hence the parameter  $\theta_{ij}$  measures the dependence of  $x_i$  on  $x_j$ , conditional on the other nodes.

# Example: Image Denoising

- Let us look at the example of noise removal from a binary image.
- Let the observed noisy image be described by an array of binary pixel values:  $y_j \in \{-1, +1\}$ ,  $i=1, \dots, D$ .

- We take a noise-free image  $x_j \in \{-1, +1\}$ , and randomly flip the sign of pixels with some small probability.



$$E(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = h \sum_i x_i - \beta \sum_{\{i,j\}} x_i x_j - \eta \sum_i x_i y_i$$

Bias term

Neighboring pixels are likely to have the same sign

Noisy and clean pixels are likely to have the same sign

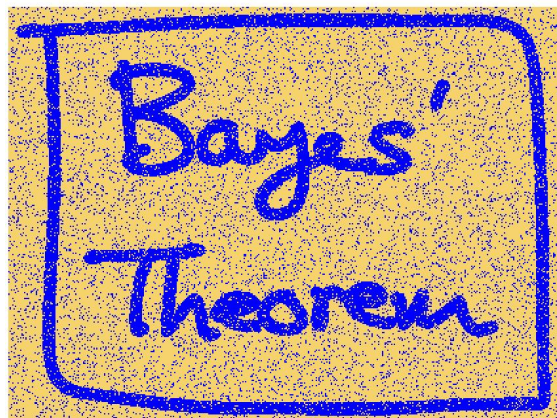
$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\{-E(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})\}$$

# Iterated Conditional Modes

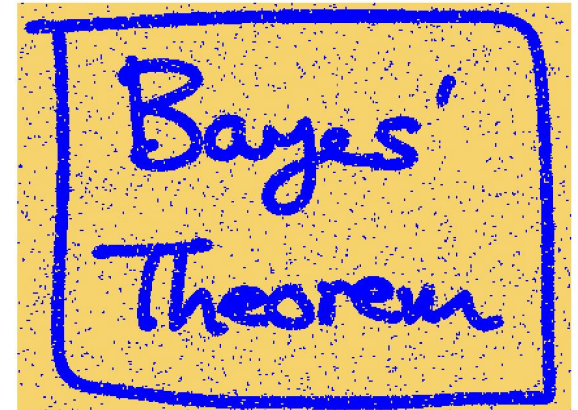
- **Iterated conditional modes:** coordinate-wise gradient descent.
- Visit the unobserved nodes sequentially and set each  $x$  to whichever of its two values has the lowest energy.
  - This only requires us to look at the Markov blanket, i.e. the connected nodes.
  - Markov blanket of a node is simply all of the directly connected nodes.



Original Image



Noisy Image



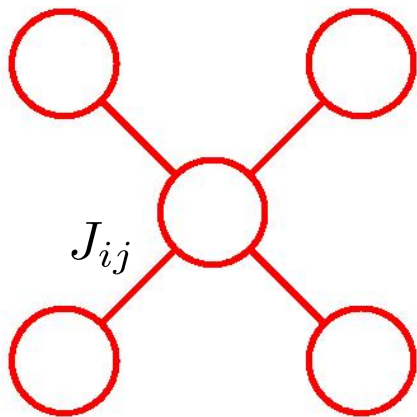
ICM

# Gaussian MRFs

- We assume that the observations have a multivariate Gaussian distribution with mean  $\mu$  and covariance matrix  $\Sigma$ .

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{D/2}} \frac{1}{|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right\}$$

- Since the Gaussian distribution represents at most **second-order relationships**, it automatically encodes a pairwise MRF. We rewrite:



$$P(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^T J \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{x}\right),$$

where  $J = \Sigma^{-1}, \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} = J^{-1}\mathbf{g}.$

- The positive definite matrix  $J$  is known as the information matrix and is sparse with respect to the given graph:

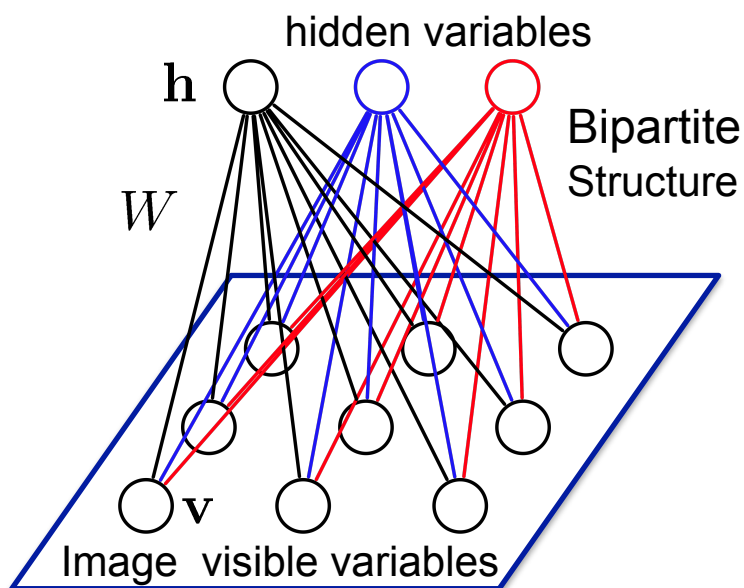
$$\mathbf{x}^T J \mathbf{x} = \sum_i J_{ii} x_i^2 + 2 \sum_{ij \in E} J_{ij} x_i x_j,$$

if  $(i, j) \notin E$ , then  $J_{ij} = 0$ .

- The information matrix is sparse, but the covariance matrix is not sparse.

# Restricted Boltzmann Machines

- For many real-world problems, we need to introduce hidden variables.
- Our random variables will contain **visible and hidden** variables  $x=(v,h)$ .



Stochastic binary visible variables  $\mathbf{v} \in \{0, 1\}^D$  are connected to stochastic binary hidden variables  $\mathbf{h} \in \{0, 1\}^F$ .

The energy of the joint configuration:

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}; \theta) = - \sum_{ij} W_{ij} v_i h_j - \sum_i b_i v_i - \sum_j a_j h_j$$

$\theta = \{W, a, b\}$  model parameters.

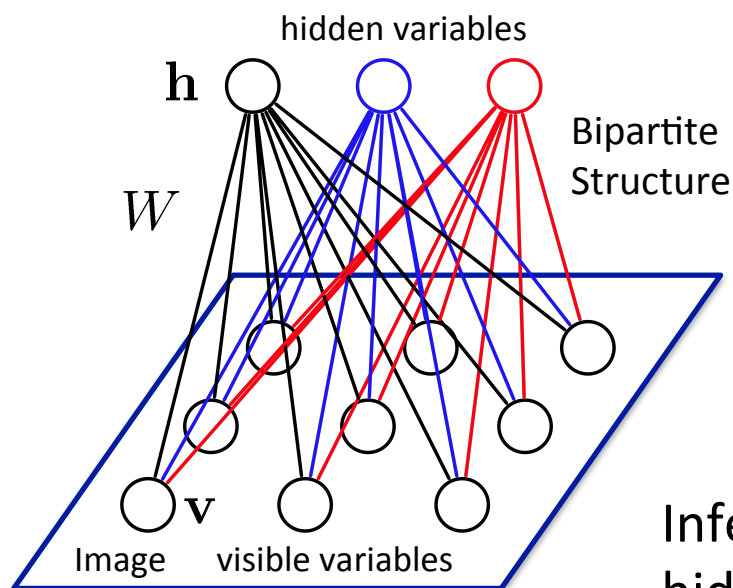
Probability of the joint configuration is given by the Boltzmann distribution:

$$P_{\theta}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\theta)} \exp(-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}; \theta)) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}(\theta)} \underbrace{\prod_{ij} e^{W_{ij} v_i h_j}}_{\text{potential functions}} \prod_i e^{b_i v_i} \prod_j e^{a_j h_j}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\theta) = \sum_{\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{v}} \exp(-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}; \theta))$$

partition function

# Restricted Boltzmann Machines



Restricted: No interaction between hidden variables



Inferring the distribution over the hidden variables is easy:

$$P(\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{v}) = \prod_j P(h_j|\mathbf{v}) \quad P(h_j = 1|\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\sum_i W_{ij}v_i - a_j)}$$

Similarly: Factorizes: Easy to compute

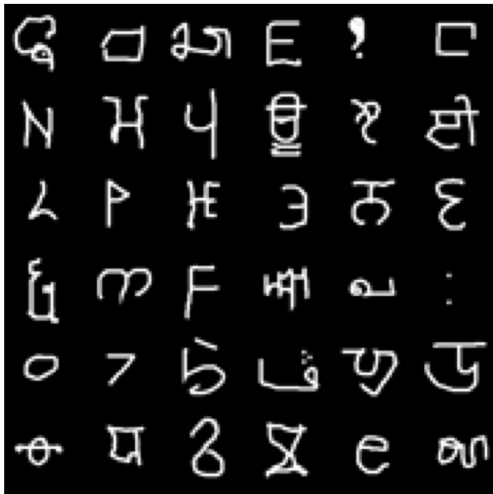
$$P(\mathbf{v}|\mathbf{h}) = \prod_i P(v_i|\mathbf{h}) \quad P(v_i = 1|\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\sum_j W_{ij}h_j - b_i)}$$

Markov random fields, Boltzmann machines, log-linear models.

# Restricted Boltzmann Machines

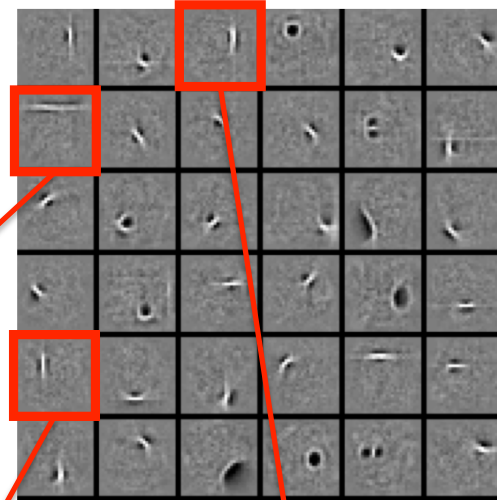
Observed Data

Subset of 25,000 characters



Learned W: "edges"

Subset of 1000 features



New Image:



$$p(h_7 = 1|v)$$

$$p(h_{29} = 1|v)$$

Most hidden variables are off

$$= \sigma \left( 0.99 \times \text{[feature 7]} + 0.97 \times \text{[feature 29]} + 0.82 \times \text{[feature 3]} + \dots \right)$$

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-x)}$$

Logistic Function: Suitable for modeling binary images

Represent:

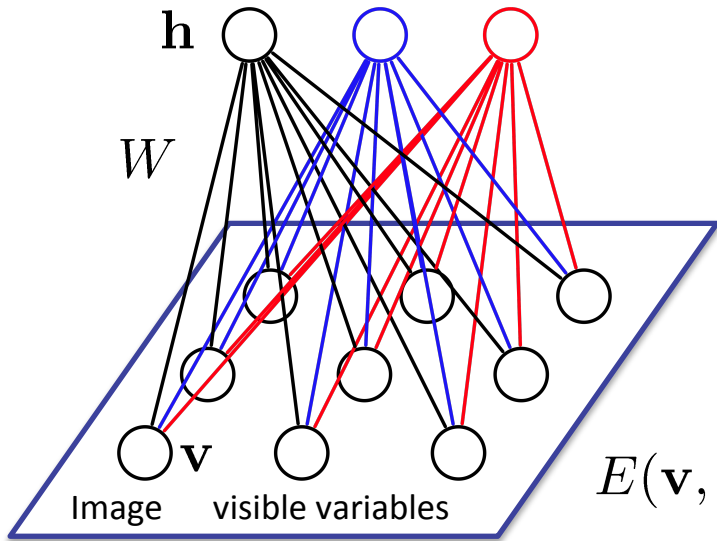


$$\text{as } P(\mathbf{h}|\mathbf{v}) = [0, 0, 0.82, 0, 0, 0.99, 0, 0 \dots]$$



# Gaussian-Bernoulli RBMs

Gaussian-Bernoulli RBM:



$$P_{\theta}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \exp(-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}; \theta))$$

Define energy functions for various data modalities:

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}; \theta) = \sum_i \frac{(v_i - b_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2} - \sum_{ij} W_{ij} h_j \frac{v_i}{\sigma_i} - \sum_j a_j h_j$$

$$P(v_i = x | \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - b_i - \sigma_i \sum_j W_{ij} h_j)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right) \quad \text{Gaussian}$$

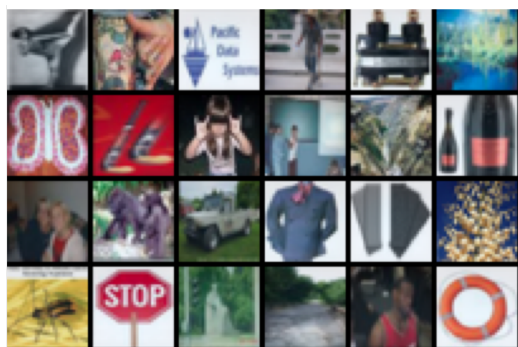
$$P(h_j = 1 | \mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\sum_i W_{ij} \frac{v_i}{\sigma_i} - a_j)} \quad \text{Bernoulli}$$



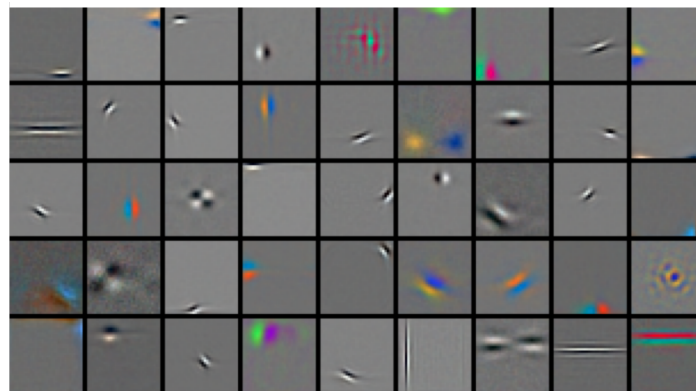
# Gaussian-Bernoulli RBMs

## Images: Gaussian-Bernoulli RBM

4 million unlabelled images



Learned features (out of 10,000)



## Text: Multinomial-Bernoulli RBM



REUTERS  
AP Associated Press

Reuters dataset:  
804,414 unlabeled  
newswire stories  
Bag-of-Words



russian  
russia  
moscow  
yeltsin  
soviet

clinton  
house  
president  
bill  
congress

computer  
system  
product  
software  
develop

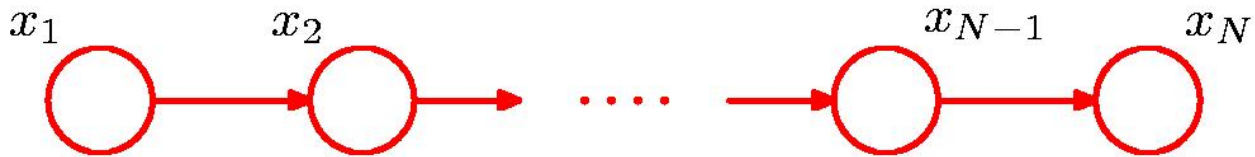
trade  
country  
import  
world  
economy

stock  
wall  
street  
point  
dow

Learned features: ``topics``

# Relation to Directed Graphs

- Let us try to convert directed graph into an undirected graph:



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{p(x_1)p(x_2|x_1)} p(x_3|x_2) \cdots p(x_N|x_{N-1})$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z} \psi_{1,2}(x_1, x_2) \psi_{2,3}(x_2, x_3) \cdots \psi_{N-1,N}(x_{N-1}, x_N)$$

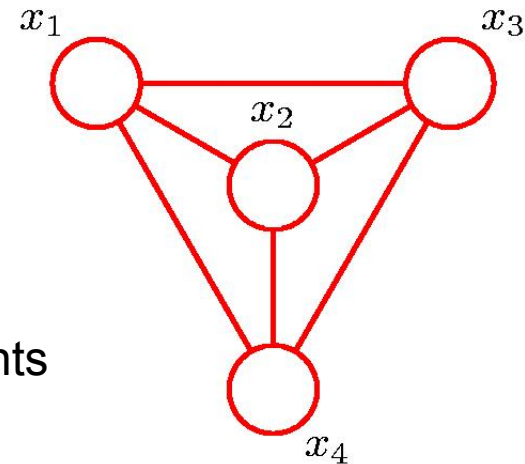
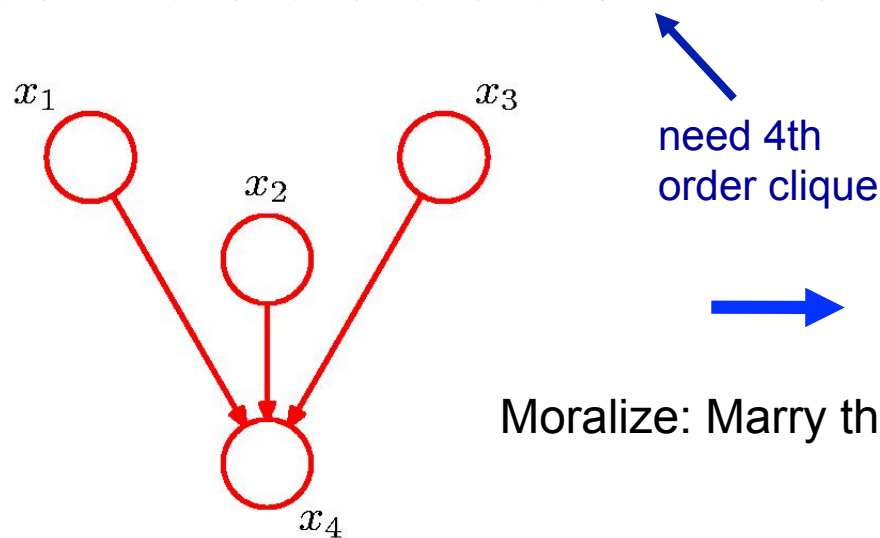


# Directed vs. Undirected

- Directed Graphs can be more precise about independencies than undirected graphs.

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(x_1)p(x_2)p(x_3)p(x_4|x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z}\psi(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$$



Moralize: Marry the parents

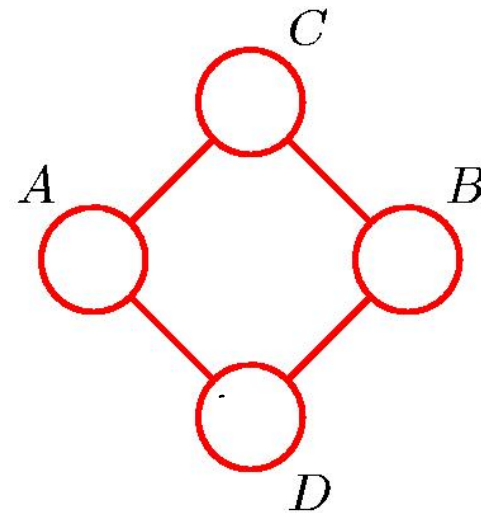
- All the parents of  $x_4$  can interact to determine the distribution over  $x_4$ .
- The directed graph represents independencies that the undirected graph cannot model.

- To represent the high-order interaction in the directed graph, the undirected graph needs a fourth-order clique.
- This fully connected graph exhibits no conditional independence properties

# Undirected vs. Directed

- Undirected Graphs can be more precise about independencies than directed graphs

- There is no directed graph over four variables that represents the same set of conditional independence properties.



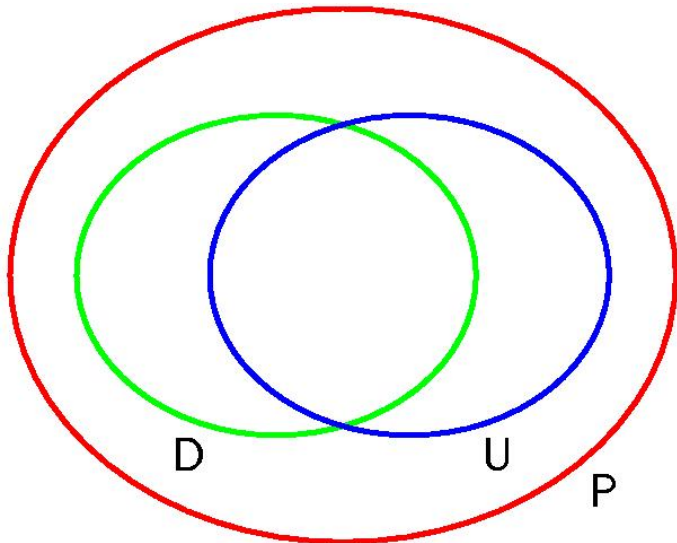
$$A \not\perp B \mid \emptyset$$

$$A \perp B \mid C \cup D$$

$$C \perp D \mid A \cup B$$

# Directed vs. Undirected

- If every conditional independence property of the distribution is reflected in the graph and vice versa, then the graph is a perfect map for that distribution.



- Venn diagram:
  - The set of all distributions P over a given set of random variables.
  - The set of distributions D that can be represented as a perfect map using directed graph.
  - The set of distributions U that can be represented as a perfect map using undirected graph.

- We can extend the framework to graphs that include both directed and undirected graphs.