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**CS 276**  
**Probabilistic and Causal Reasoning**

Rina Dechter

Algorithmic Approach for  
Identification<sup>1</sup>

# Roadmap

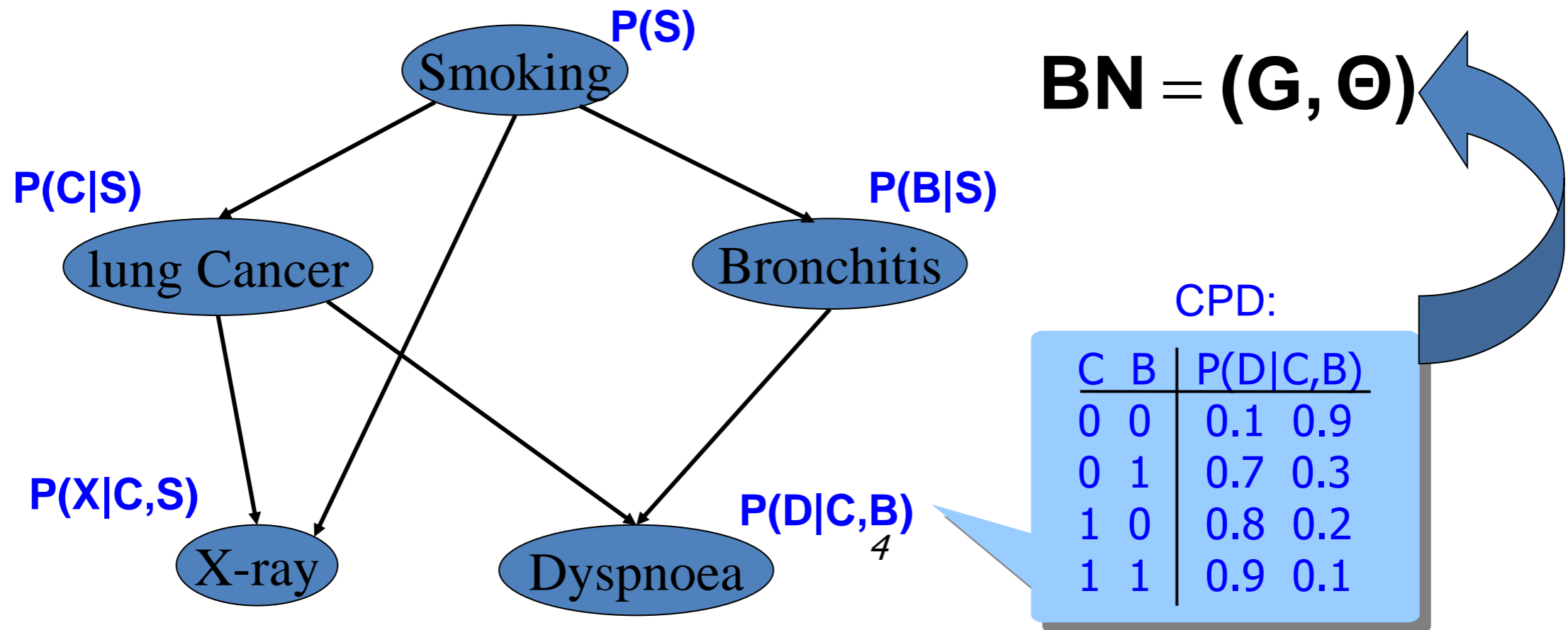
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- Define a decomposition (factorization) of the probability distributions generated by a SCM, based on the corresponding causal diagram.
- Establish operations that allows us to identify particular components (factors) from a distribution.
- Express the target causal effect into factors and develop a systematic procedure to identify each one of them independently.

# Factorizing Observational Distributions

# Bayesian Networks: Example

(Pearl, 1988)



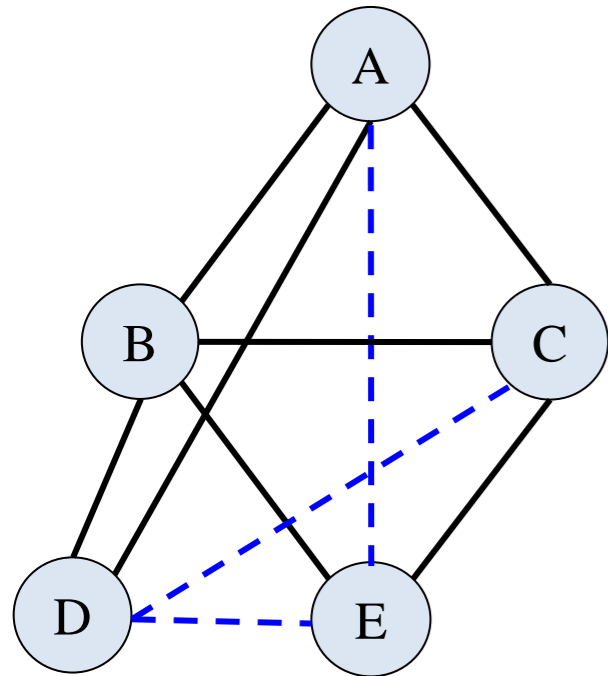
$$P(S, C, B, X, D) = P(S) P(C/S) P(B/S) P(X/C,S) P(D/C,B)$$

## Belief Updating:

$$P(\text{lung cancer=yes} \mid \text{smoking=no, dyspnoea=yes}) = ?$$

# Belief Updating

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



“primal” graph

$$p(A \mid E = 0)$$

$$\propto p(A, E = 0)$$

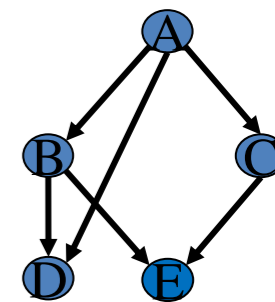
$$= \sum_{e,d,c,b} p(A) p(b|A) p(c|A) p(d|b, A) p(e|b, c) \mathbb{1}[e = 0]$$

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

Variable Elimination

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

# Belief Updating



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:

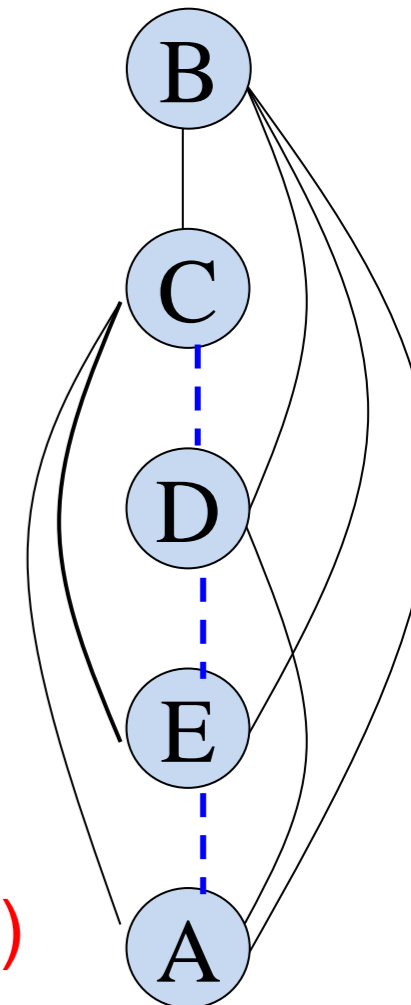
$$p(A) \lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(A)$$

$$p(E = 0)$$

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

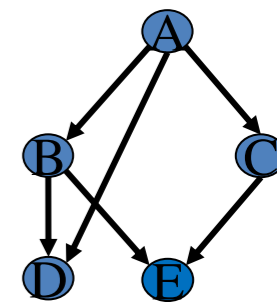
Elimination & combination operators

$W^* = 4$   
 “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***

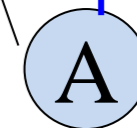
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bucket A:

$p(A)$

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

induced width  
(max clique size)



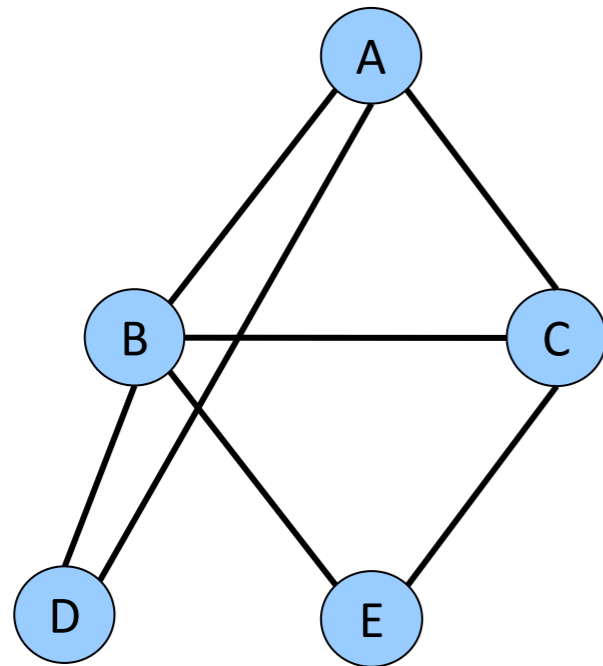
$p(E = 0)$

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

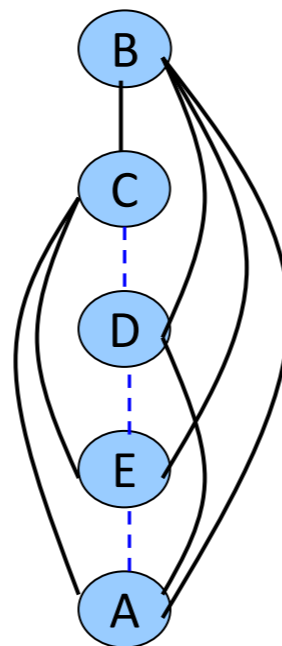
# Induced Width (continued)

$w^*(d)$  – the induced width of the primal graph along ordering  $d$

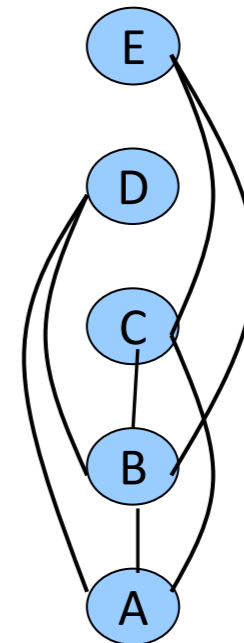
The effect of the ordering:



Primal (moral) graph



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

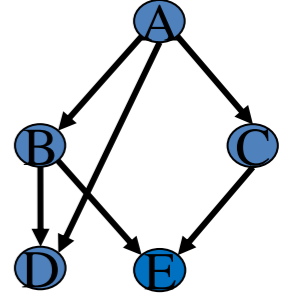


$$w^*(d_2) = 2$$



# The impact of evidence?

Algorithm *BE-bel*



$$P(A | E = 0) = \alpha \sum_{E=0, D, C, B} P(A) \cdot P(B | A) \cdot P(C | A) \cdot P(D | A, B) \cdot P(E | B, C)$$

$\sum_b \prod$  ← Elimination operator

bucket B:

$$P(b|a) \quad P(d|b,a) \quad P(e|b,c)$$

B=1

bucket C:

$$P(c|a) \quad \lambda^B(a, d, c, e)$$

bucket D:

$$\lambda^C(a, d, e)$$

bucket E:

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$$e=0 \quad \lambda^D(a, e)$$

bucket A:

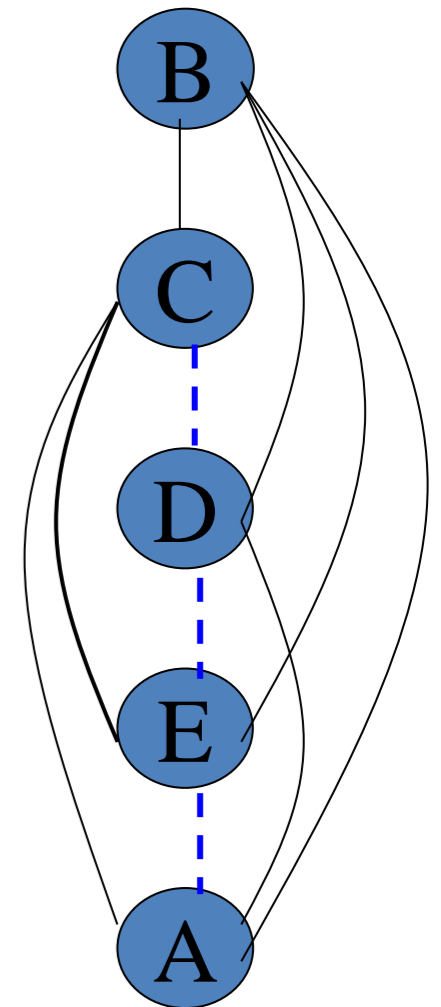
$$P(a) \quad \lambda^E(a)$$

$$P(e=0)$$

$$P(a/e=0)$$

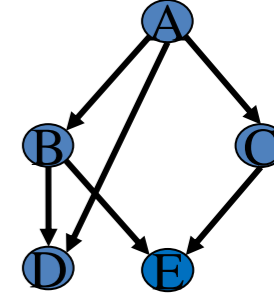
$W^*=4$

"induced width"  
(max clique size)



# The impact of evidence?

## Algorithm *BE-bel*



$$P(A | E = 0) = \alpha \sum_{E=0, D, C, B} P(A) \cdot P(B | A) \cdot P(C | A) \cdot P(D | A, B) \cdot P(E | B, C)$$

$P(A | E=0, B=1)?$

$\sum_b \prod$

Elimination operator

bucket B:

$P(b|a) \quad P(d|b,a) \quad P(e|b,c)$

B=1

bucket C:

$P(c|a)$

$P(e | b=1, c)$

bucket D:

$P(d | b=1, a)$

bucket E:

$e=0$

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bucket A:

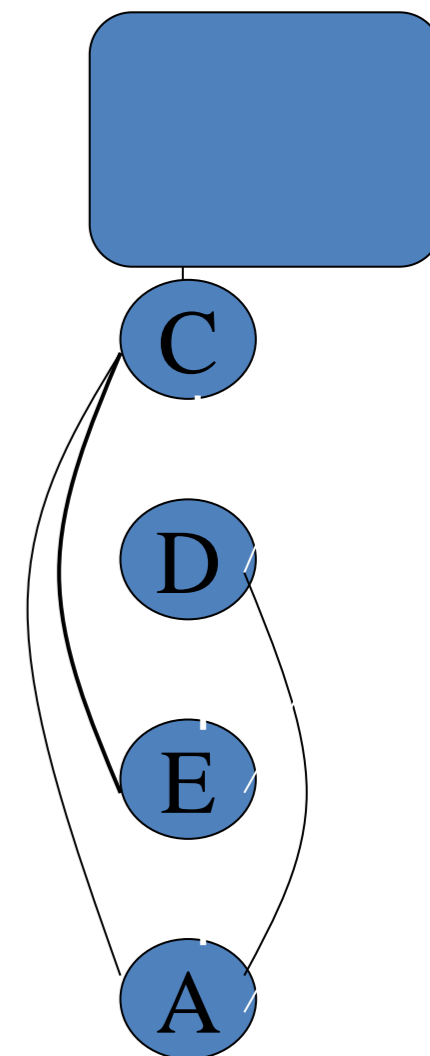
$P(a)$

$P(b=1 | a)$

$P(e=0)$

$P(a|e=0)$

$$P(a|e=0) = \frac{P(a, e=0)}{P(e=0)}$$



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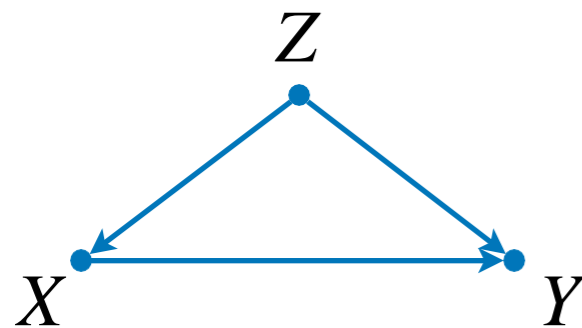
# Back to SCM

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# Markovian Case

- The distribution  $P(\mathbf{v})$  decomposes as:

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_{\mathbf{u}} P(\mathbf{u}) \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{V}} P(v_i | v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, \mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{u}} P(\mathbf{u}) \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{V}} P(v_i | pa_i, u_i)$$



$$P(z, x, y) = \sum_{\mathbf{u}} P(\mathbf{u}) P(z | u_z) P(x | z, u_x) P(y | x, z, u_y)$$



$$= \left( \sum_{u_z} P(z | u_z) P(u_z) \right) \left( \sum_{u_x} P(x | z, u_x) P(u_x) \right) \left( \sum_{u_y} P(y | x, z, u_y) P(u_y) \right)$$

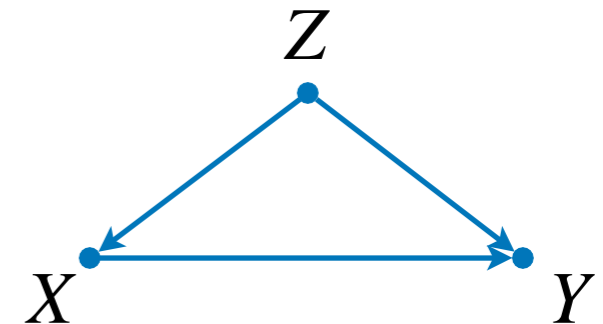
$$= P(z) P(x | z) P(y | x, z)$$

- In Markovian models,  $P(v_i | pa_i)$  can be seen as “canonical factors”.

# Markovian Case

- Every  $P(v_i|pa_i)$  is computable from  $P(\mathbf{v})$ , i.e.,

$$P(v_i|pa_i) = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{v} \setminus v_i, pa_i} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{\mathbf{v} \setminus pa_i} P(\mathbf{v})}$$



$$P(z, x, y) = \underbrace{P(z)}_{\text{blue}} \underbrace{P(x|z)}_{\text{green}} \underbrace{P(y|x, z)}_{\text{yellow}}$$

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

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

$$P(x|z) = \frac{\sum_y P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{x,y} P(\mathbf{v})}$$

# Markovian Case



$$U_z: P(U_z), P(z|U_z) \rightarrow$$

$$U_x: P(U_x), P(x|U_x, z)$$

$$U_y: P(U_y), P(y|z, x, U_y)$$

$$x, y, z: \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda_{U_z}(z) = \sum_{U_z} P(z|U_z) \cdot P(U_z) = ? \\ \lambda_{U_x}(x, z) = \sum_{U_x} P(x|U_x, z) \cdot P(U_x) = ? \\ \lambda_{U_y}(y, x, z) = \sum_{U_y} P(y|z, x, U_y) \cdot P(U_y) = ? \end{array} \right.$$

$$P(x, y, z) = \lambda_{U_z}(z) \cdot \lambda_{U_x}(x, z) \cdot \lambda_{U_y}(y, x, z)$$

# Markovian Case



$$U_z: P(U_z), P(z|U_z) \rightarrow$$

$$U_x: P(U_x), P(x|U_x, z)$$

$$U_y: P(U_y), P(y|z, x, U_y)$$

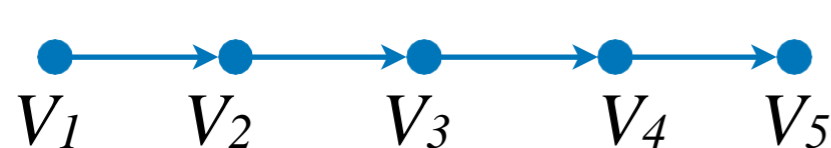
$$X, Y, Z: \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda_{U_z}(z) = \sum_{U_z} P(z|U_z) \cdot P(U_z) = ? \\ \lambda_{U_x}(x, z) = \sum_{U_x} P(x|U_x, z) \cdot P(U_x) = ? \\ \lambda_{U_y}(y, x, z) = \sum_{U_y} P(y|z, x, U_y) \cdot P(U_y) = ? \end{array} \right.$$

$$P(X, Y, Z) = \lambda_{U_z}(z) \cdot \lambda_{U_x}(x, z) \cdot \lambda_{U_y}(y, x, z)$$

$$P(X, Y, Z) = P(Z)P(X|Z)P(Y|X, Y, Z)$$

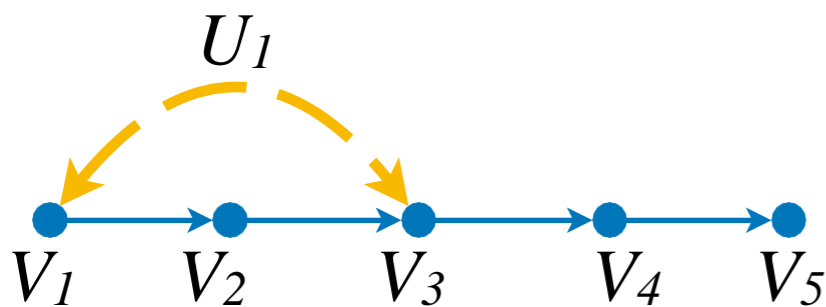
# Semi-Markovian Case

- Start from a simple Markovian model:



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = P(v_1)P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_3 | v_2)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4)$$

- Let's add an unobservable  $U_1$ , that affects two observables, and breaking Markovianity:



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\mathbf{v}) &= \sum_{u_1} P(u_1)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4) \\
 &= P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4) \left( \sum_{u_1} P(u_1)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Using Bucket Elimination



$$U_1: \underbrace{P(U_1), P(V_2|U_1), P(V_3|V_2, U_1)}$$

$$V_3: \underbrace{P(V_4|V_3)} \lambda(V_1, V_2, V_3) =$$

$$V_2: P(V_2|V_4) \sum_{U_1} P(V_3|V_2, U_1) \cdot P(V_1|U_1) \cdot P(U_1)$$

$$V_1:$$

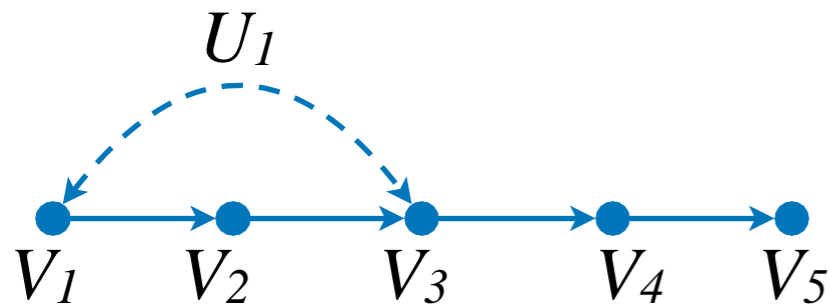
$$V_4: P(V_5|V_4)$$

$$V_5:$$

Can this be expressed using  $P(V)$  only?

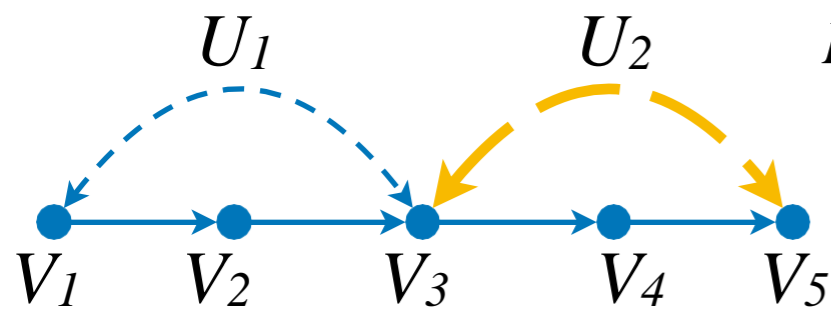
# Semi-Markovian Case

- From the previous model ...



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\mathbf{v}) &= \sum_{u_1} P(u_1)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4) \\
 &= P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4) \left( \sum_{u_1} P(u_1)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

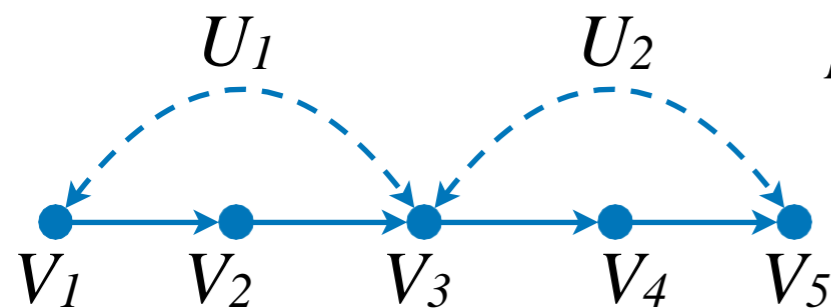
- Add another unobservable  $U_2$ ,



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\mathbf{v}) &= \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)P(v_4 | v_3)P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \\
 &= P(v_2 | v_1)P(v_4 | v_3) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Semi-Markovian Case

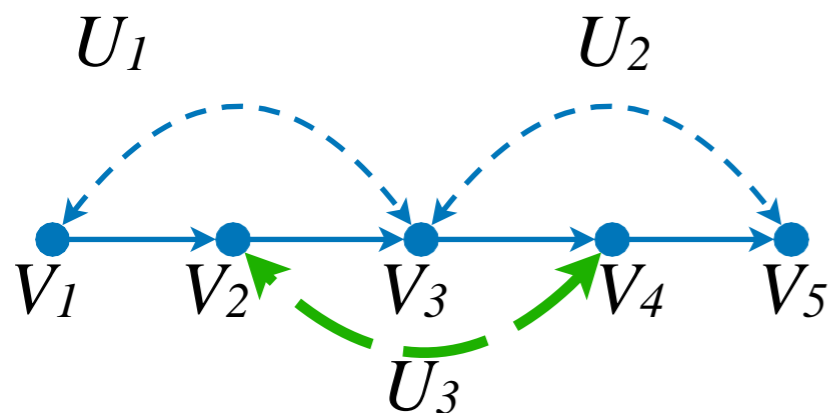
- From the previous model...



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_2 | v_1) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_4 | v_3) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2)$$

$$= P(v_2 | v_1) P(v_4 | v_3) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)$$

- Let's add one more,  $U_3$ ,

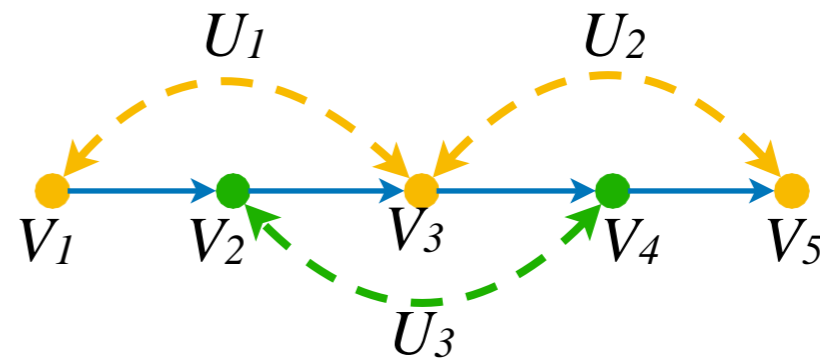


$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_{u_1, u_2, u_3} P(u_1, u_2, u_3) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_2 | v_1, u_3) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_4 | v_3, u_3) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2)$$

$$= \left( \sum_{u_3} P(u_3) P(v_2 | v_1, u_3) P(v_4 | v_3, u_3) \right) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)$$

# C-factors

- Recall our example



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \left( \sum_{u_3} P(u_3)P(v_2 | v_1, u_3)P(v_4 | v_3, u_3) \right) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)$$

- These factors made of sums may be long to write in terms of  $P(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u})$ . However, their structure follows from the topology of the diagram, then we can abstract this concept out by defining a new function  $Q$ :

$$Q[\mathbf{C}](\mathbf{c}, pa_{\mathbf{c}}) = \sum_{u(\mathbf{C})} P(u(\mathbf{C})) \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{C}} P(v_i | pa_i, u_i) \quad \text{where} \quad U(\mathbf{C}) = \bigcup_{V_i \in \mathbf{C}} U_i$$

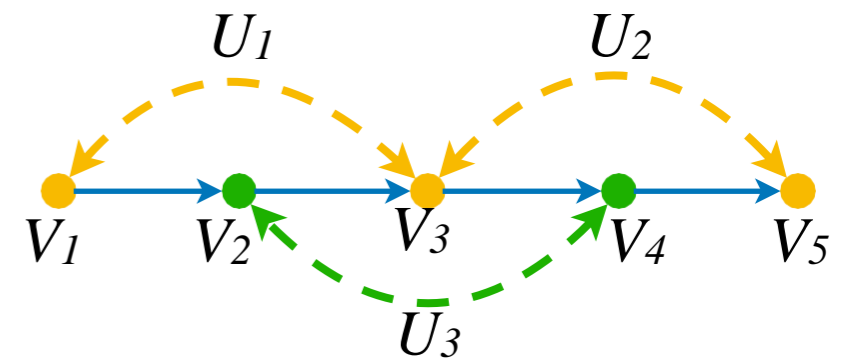
- Then  $P(\mathbf{v})$  can be re-written as

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = Q[V_2, V_4](v_2, v_4, v_1, v_3)Q[V_1, V_3, V_5](v_1, v_3, v_5, v_2, v_4)$$

# C-factors

- For convenience  $Q[\mathbf{C}](\mathbf{c}, pa_{\mathbf{c}})$  can be written just as  $Q[\mathbf{C}]$
- Then, for our example, we can just write

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{Q[V_2, V_4]}_{\text{green}} \underbrace{Q[V_1, V_3, V_5]}_{\text{yellow}}$$



- No need to name the variables in  $U$  explicitly!
- Note that for the whole set of variables  $V$ 

$$Q[\mathbf{V}] = \sum_{\mathbf{u}} P(\mathbf{u}) \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{V}} P(v_i | pa_i, u_i) = P(\mathbf{v})$$
- For consistency define  $Q[\emptyset]=1$

# C-factors are Causal Effects

---

- Let  $C \subseteq V$ . Consider the causal effect of all other variables on  $C$ , that is  $P(\mathbf{c}/do(\mathbf{v}\setminus\mathbf{c}))$ .

- By the truncated product we have

$$P(\mathbf{c} | do(\mathbf{v} \setminus \mathbf{c})) = \sum_{\mathbf{u}} \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{C}} P(v_i | pa_i, u_i) P(\mathbf{u})$$

- All  $U$ s that are not parents of any element in  $C$  can be summed out, hence

$$\boxed{P(\mathbf{c} | do(\mathbf{v} \setminus \mathbf{c}))} = \sum_{u(\mathbf{C})} P(u(\mathbf{C})) \prod_{V_i \in \mathbf{C}} P(v_i | pa_i, u_i) \boxed{= Q[\mathbf{C}]}$$

This is a key connection between C-factors and causal effects.



# On the completeness of an identifiability algorithm for semi-Ma models

Article *in* Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence · December 2008

DOI: 10.1007/s10472-008-9101-x · Source: DBLP



# C-Factor (component)

## Definition C-factor or C-component

A *c-component* (short for “confounded component,” [3]) of variable set  $V$  on graph  $G$  consists of all the unobservable variables belonging to the same *c-component* related part of  $U$  and all observable variables that have an unobservable parent which is a member of that *c-component*.

## Definition of Ancestral set

We conclude this section by giving several simple graphical definitions that will be needed later. For a given variable set  $C \subseteq N$ , let  $G_C$  denote the subgraph of  $G$  composed only of variables in  $C$  and all the bidirected links between variable pairs in  $C$ . We define  $An(C)$  be the union of  $C$  and the set of observable ancestors of the variables in  $C$  in graph  $G$  and  $De(C)$  be the union of  $C$  and the set of observable descendants of the variables in  $C$  in graph  $G$ .

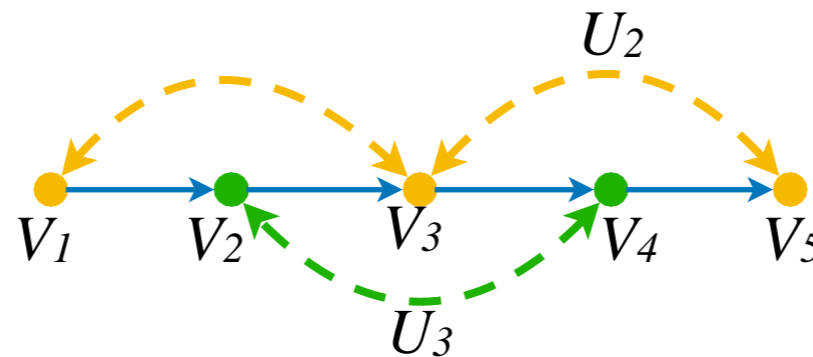
An observable variable set  $S \subseteq N$  in graph  $G$  is called an *ancestral set* if it contains all its own observed ancestors (i.e.,  $S = An(S)$ ).



# Confounded components

## 27.13 Confounded Component

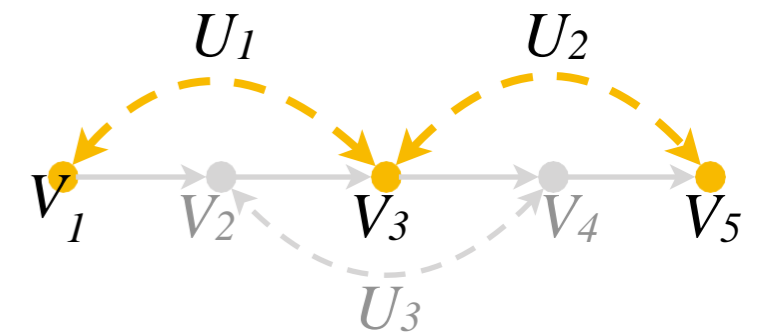
Let  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$  be a partition over the set  $V$ .  $C_i$  is said to be a confounded component (C-component) of  $\mathcal{G}$  if there exists a path made of bidirected edges between  $V_i$  and  $V_j$ , for every  $V_i, V_j \in C_i$  in  $\mathcal{G}$ , and  $C_i$  is maximal.



# Marginalizing Variables in C-factors

- To a certain extent, c-factors behave as its probabilistic counterparts.
- Consider the c-factor  $Q[V_1, V_3, V_5]$  in our example

$$Q[V_1, V_3, V_5] = \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2)$$



- Variables  $V_1, V_3, V_5$  only appear in one term, because they are not the parent of any other variable in the factor. So, if we sum  $Q[V_1, V_3, V_5]$  over any of them, for instance  $V_3$ , we have

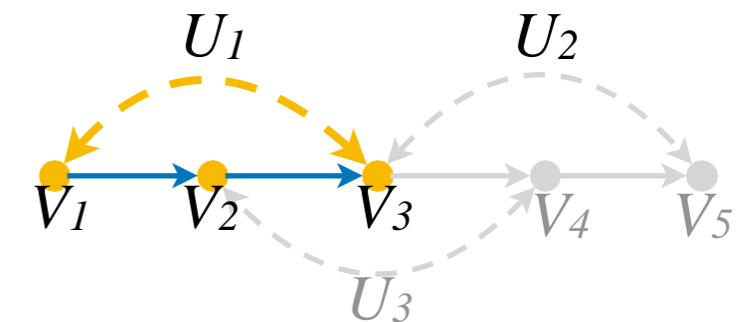
$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v_3} Q[V_1, V_3, V_5] &= \sum_{v_3} \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \\ &= \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) = Q[V_1, V_5] \end{aligned}$$

# Marginalizing Variables in C-factors

- Consider now a different c-factor

$$Q[V_1, V_2, V_3],$$

By Definition of Q:



$$Q[V_1, V_2, V_3] = \sum_{u_1, u_2, u_3} P(u_1, u_2, u_3) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_2 | v_1, u_3) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)$$

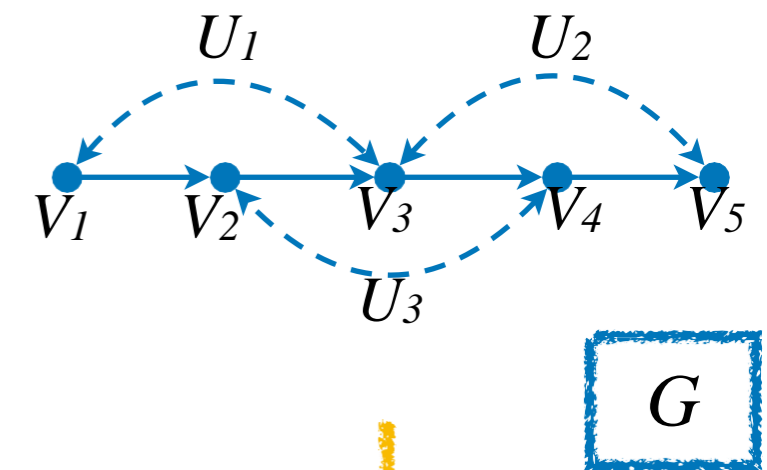
- In contrast to the previous case, here  $V_1$  appears in two terms since it's a parent of another variable in the factor. So, if we sum  $Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]$  over  $V_1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v_1} Q[V_1, V_2, V_3] &= \sum_{v_1} \sum_{u_1, u_2, u_3} P(u_1, u_2, u_3) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_2 | v_1, u_3) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) \\ &= \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2) P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2) \sum_{v_1, u_3} P(u_3) P(v_1 | u_1) P(v_2 | v_1, u_3) \neq Q[V_2, V_3] \end{aligned}$$

Can we remove  $V_1$  here? Symbolically?

# What variables can be marginalized in the logic of C-factors?

- Let  $W \subset C \subseteq V$ , be two sets of variables.
- Lemma (ancestral-reduction). If  $W$  is **ancestral**, that is, it contains all  $An(W)$  present in the subgraph made of the variables in  $C$ , i.e.,  $G_C$ .



- Then, 
$$Q[W] = \sum_{C \setminus W} Q[C]$$
- For example, for  $C = \{V_1, V_2, V_3\}$ , in  $G_C$

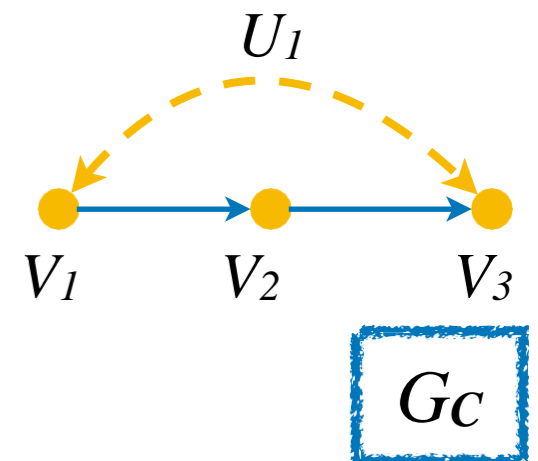
- $W = \{V_1, V_2\}$  is ancestral

$$Q[V_1, V_2] = \sum_{v_3} Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]$$

- $W = \{V_1\}$  is ancestral

$$Q[V_1] = \sum_{v_2, v_3} Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]$$

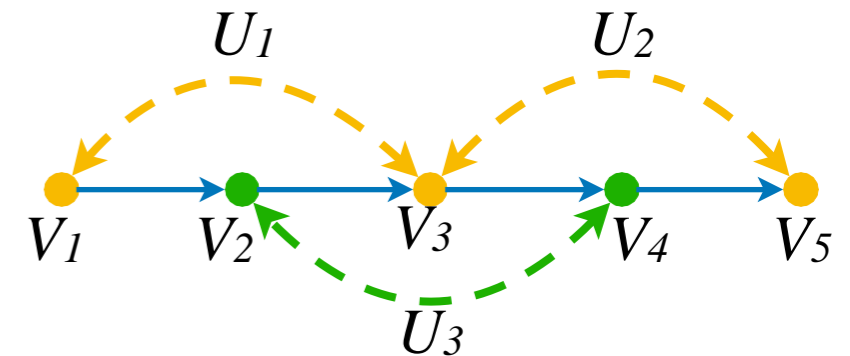
- $W = \{V_2, V_3\}$  is not ancestral



So if  $Q(C)$  is identifiable then  $Q(W)$  is identifiable.

# Confounded Components (C-Components)

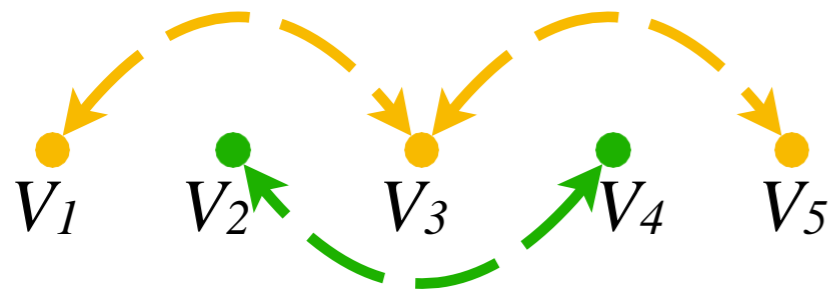
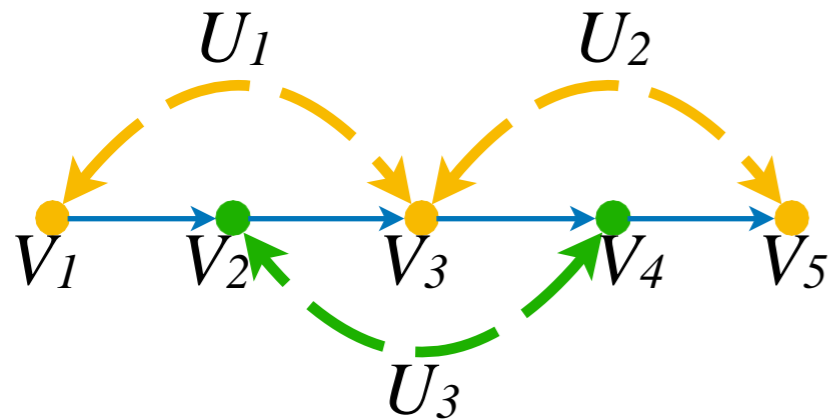
- Recall our example



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \left( \sum_{u_3} P(u_3)P(v_2 | v_1, u_3)P(v_4 | v_3, u_3) \right) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)$$

- Definition (C-component).** When  $V_i$  and  $V_j$  share a common unobservable parent  $U$ ,  $P(v_i | pa_i, u_i)$  and  $P(v_j | pa_j, u_j)$  are tied together by the sum over  $U \in U_i \cap U_j$ . Then, we say that  $V_i$  and  $V_j$  are in the same confounded component (**C-Component**, for short).

# C-Component Relationship

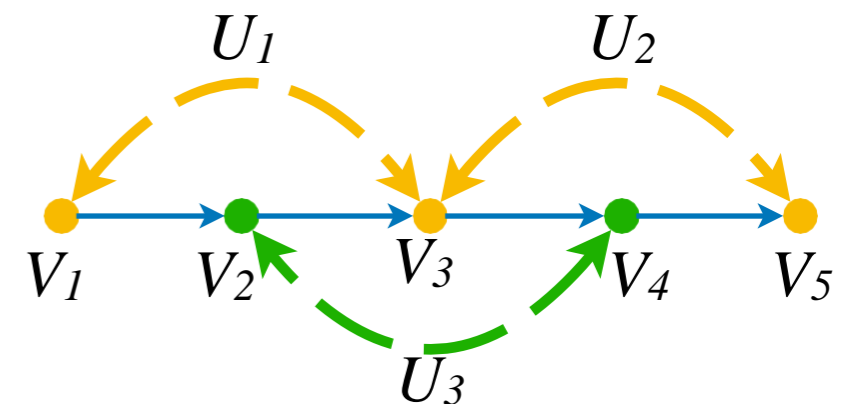


- $V_1$  is in the same c-component as  $V_3$ ,
- $V_3$  is in the same c-component as  $V_5$ ,
- By extension,  $V_1$  is in the same c-component as  $V_5$  too.
- $V_2$  is in the same c-component as  $V_4$ .
- To see it easily, consider the graph induced over the **bidirected edges**!
- Obs. The C-Component relation defines a partition over the observable variables, hence it is *Reflexive*, *Symmetric* and *Transitive*.

# C-Component Factorization

- The distribution  $P(\mathbf{v})$  factorizes into c-factors associated with the c-components of the graph.

$$Q_1 = \{V_2, V_4\} \quad Q_2 = \{V_1, V_3, V_5\}$$



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \left( \sum_{u_3} P(u_3)P(v_2 | v_1, u_3)P(v_4 | v_3, u_3) \right) \left( \sum_{u_1, u_2} P(u_1, u_2)P(v_1 | u_1)P(v_3 | v_2, u_1, u_2)P(v_5 | v_4, u_2) \right)$$

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = Q[V_2, V_4] Q[V_1, V_3, V_5]$$

# C-Component Factorization

---

- For any  $H \subseteq V$ , consider a graph  $G_H$ .
- Let  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_k$  be the c-components of  $G_H$ .
- Then

$$Q[\mathbf{H}] = \prod_j Q[H_j]$$

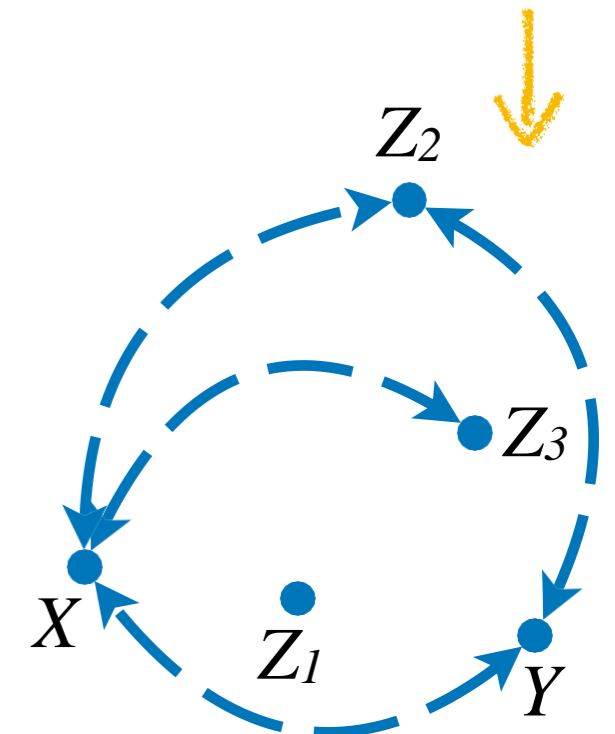
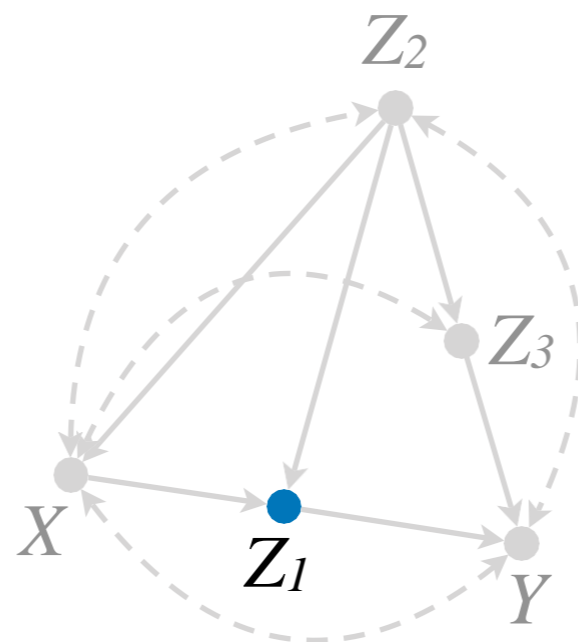
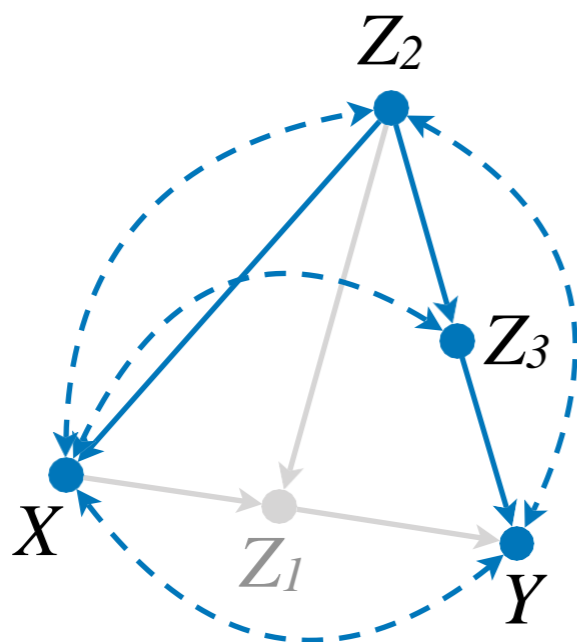
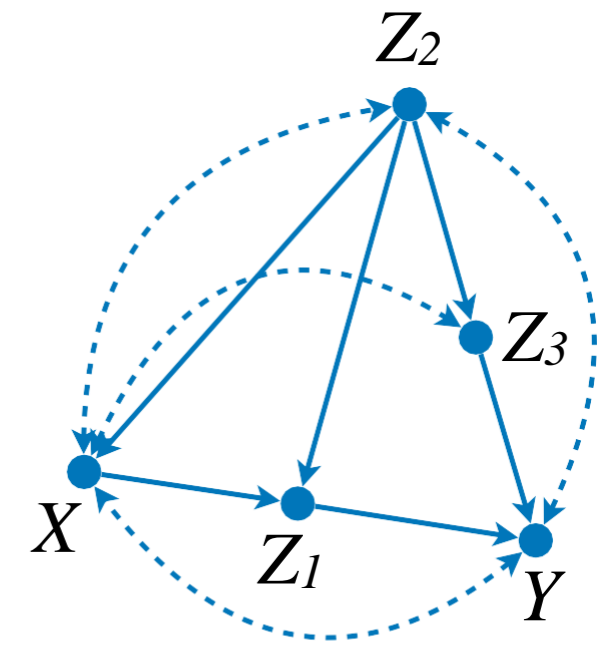


# C-Component Factorization

- Consider another example

$$Q[\mathbf{V}] = Q[Z_2, Z_3, X, Y]Q[Z_1]$$

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = P(z_2, z_3, x, y \mid do(z_1))P(z_1 \mid do(z_2, z_3, x, y))$$



# C-Component Factorization

---

- For any  $H \subseteq V$ , consider a graph  $G_H$ .
- Let  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_k$  be the c-components of  $G_H$ .
- Then

$$Q[\mathbf{H}] = \prod_j Q[H_j]$$

# C-Component Factorization

(Continued)

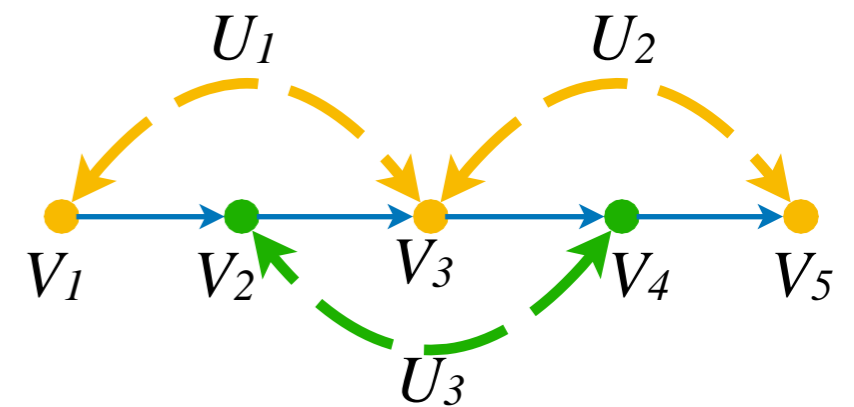
---

- Let  $V_{h1} < V_{h2} < \dots < V_{hn}$  be a topological order over the variables in  $H$  according to  $G$ .
- Let  $H^{\leq i}$  be the variables in  $H$  that come before  $V_{hi}$ , including  $V_{hi}$ .
- Let  $H^{> i}$  be the variables in  $H$  that come after  $V_{hi}$ .
- Then

$$Q[H_j] = \prod_{V_i \in H_j} \frac{Q[\mathbf{H}^{\leq i}]}{Q[\mathbf{H}^{\leq i-1}]} \quad Q[\mathbf{H}^{\leq i}] = \sum_{h^{> i}} Q[\mathbf{H}]$$

# C-Component Factorization

- Suppose  $H=V=\{V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4, V_5\}$  is ancestral in  $G_C$ .



$$Q[V] = Q[V_1, V_3, V_5] Q[V_2, V_4]$$

$$Q[V_1, V_3, V_5] = \frac{Q[V_1]}{Q[\emptyset]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]}{Q[V_1, V_2]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4, V_5]}{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4]}$$

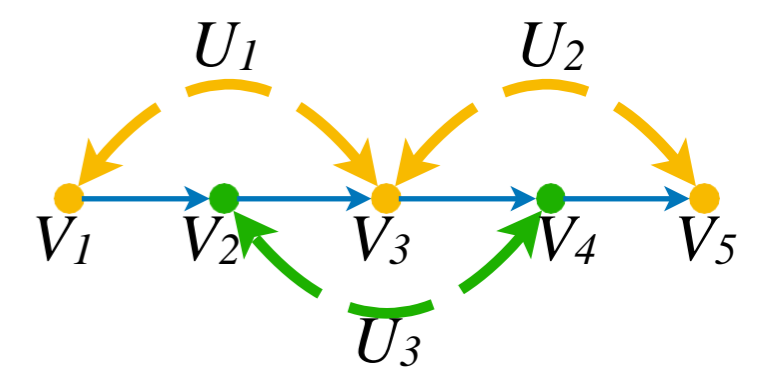
$$Q[V_2, V_4] = \frac{Q[V_1, V_2]}{Q[V_1]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4]}{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]}$$

$$Q[H_j] = \prod_{V_i \in H_j} \frac{Q[H^{\leq i}]}{Q[H^{\leq i-1}]}$$

# C-Component Factorization

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q[V_1, V_3, V_5] &= \frac{Q[V_1]}{Q[\emptyset]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]}{Q[V_1, V_2]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4, V_5]}{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4]} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]}{\sum_{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]} \frac{\sum_{v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]}{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]} \frac{\sum_{\emptyset} Q[\mathbf{V}]}{\sum_{v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})} \frac{\sum_{v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})} \frac{\sum_{\emptyset} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{v_5} P(\mathbf{v})} \\
 &= \frac{P(v_1)}{1} \frac{P(v_1, v_2, v_3)}{P(v_1, v_2)} \frac{P(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5)}{P(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)} \\
 &= P(v_1)P(v_3 | v_1, v_2)P(v_5 | v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$Q[H^{\leq i}] = \sum_{h > i} Q[H]$$



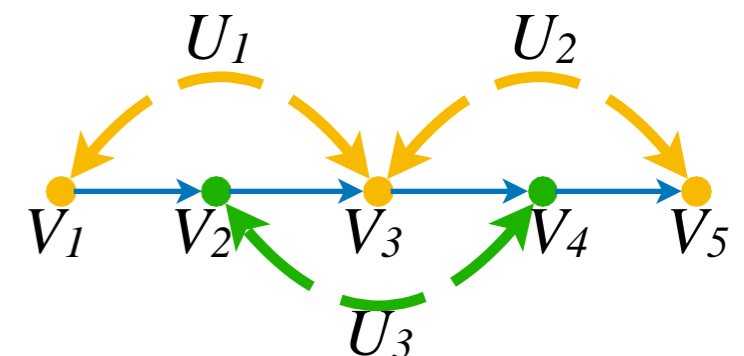
# C-Component Factorization

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q[V_2, V_4] &= \frac{Q[V_1, V_2]}{Q[V_1]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4]}{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{v}]}{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{v}]} \frac{\sum_{v_5} Q[\mathbf{v}]}{\sum_{v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{v}]} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})} \frac{\sum_{v_5} P(\mathbf{v})}{\sum_{v_4, v_5} P(\mathbf{v})} \\
 &= \frac{P(v_1, v_2)}{P(v_1)} \frac{P(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)}{P(v_1, v_2, v_3)} \\
 &= P(v_2 | v_1) P(v_4 | v_1, v_2, v_3)
 \end{aligned}$$

How to get just  $Q[V_2]$  or  $Q[V_4]$ ?  
 Both are ancestral in  $G_{\{v_2, v_4\}}$ !

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q[V_2] &= \sum_{v_4} Q[V_2, V_4] \\
 &= P(v_2 | v_1)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q[V_4] &= \sum_{v_2} Q[V_2, V_4] \\
 &= \sum_{v_2} P(v_2 | v_1) P(v_4 | v_1, v_2, v_3)
 \end{aligned}$$



# C-Component Factorization

$$Q[V_2, V_4] = \frac{Q[V_1, V_2]}{Q[V_1]} \frac{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4]}{Q[V_1, V_2, V_3]}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]}{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]} \frac{\sum_{v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]}{\sum_{v_4, v_5} Q[\mathbf{V}]}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\dots)}{\sum_{v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5} P(\dots)}$$

$$= \frac{P(v_1, v_2)}{P(v_1)} \frac{P(v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)}{P(v_1, v_2, v_3)}$$

$$= P(v_2 | v_1) P(v_4 | v_1, v_2, v_3)$$

How to get just  $Q[V_2]$  or  $Q[V_4]$ ?  
Both are ancestral in  $G_{\{V_2, V_4\}}$ !

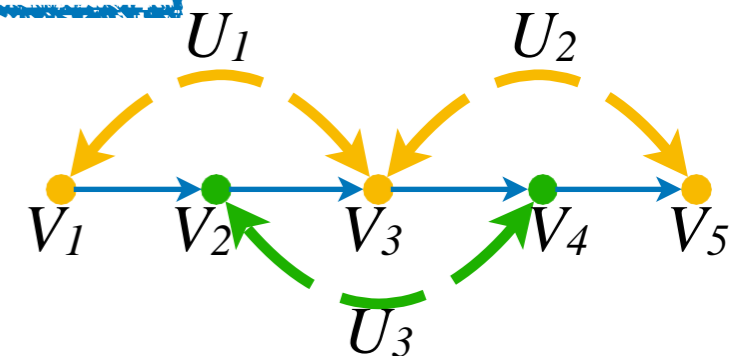
$$Q[V_2] = \sum_{v_4} Q[V_2, V_4]$$

$$= P(v_2 | v_1)$$

Notice that these c-factors are expressible in terms of the obs. distribution (no  $U$ -terms)!

$Q[V_2, V_4]$

$|v_1)P(v_4 | v_1, v_2, v_3)$



# C-factor Algebra - Summary

---

We have two basic operations over c-factors

1. Reduce to an ancestral set

$$Q[\mathbf{W}] = \sum_{\mathbf{c} \setminus \mathbf{w}} Q[\mathbf{C}] \quad \text{If } \mathbf{W} \text{ is ancestral in } G_C$$

2. Factorize into c-components

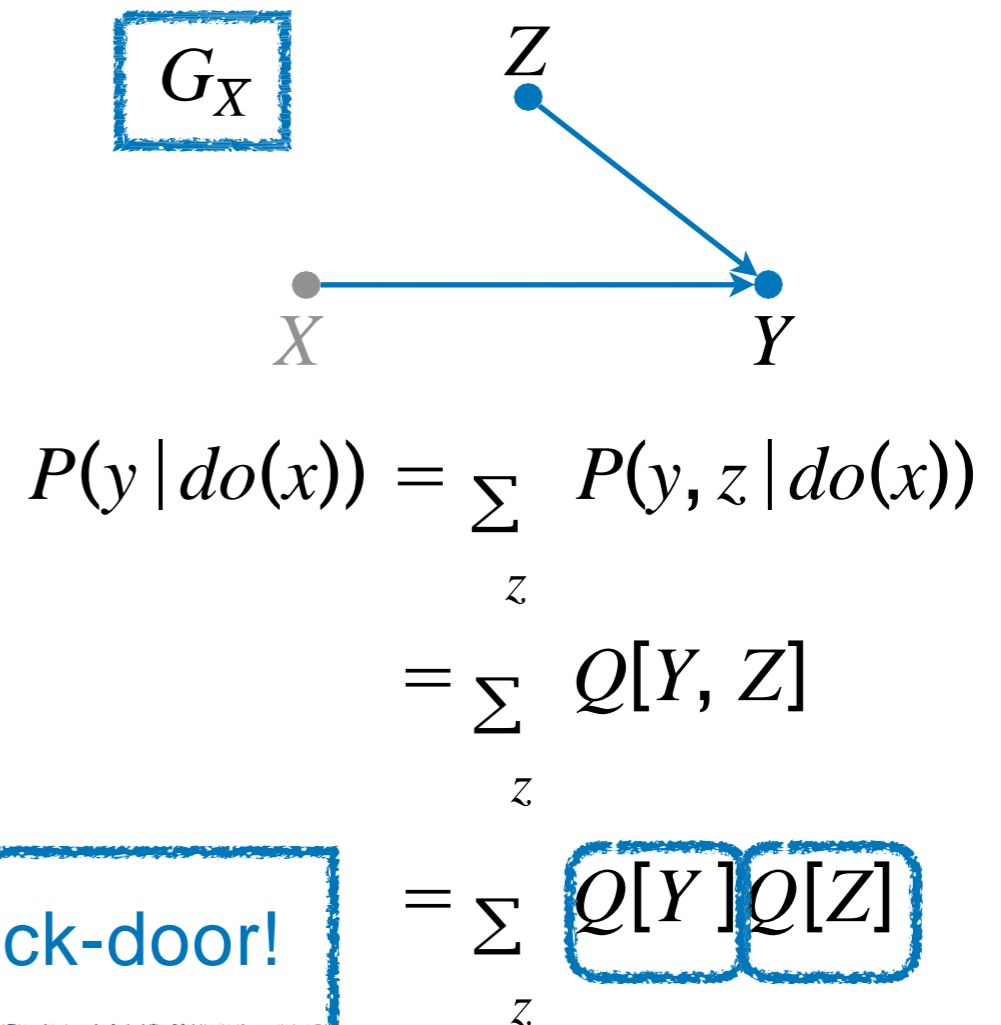
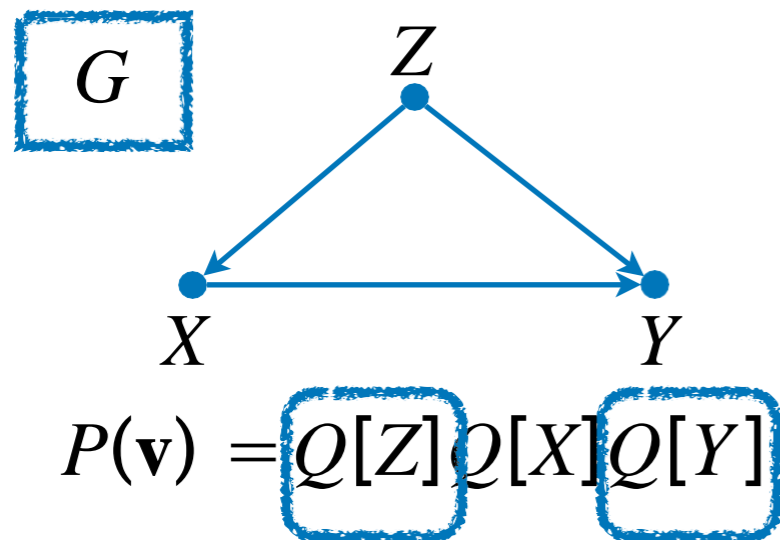
$$Q[\mathbf{H}] = \prod_j Q[H_j] \quad \text{Where } H_1, \dots, H_k, \text{ are the c-components in } G_H$$



# Expressing Causal Queries in terms of C-factors

# Causal Effect in terms of C-Factors

- Consider an intervention  $do(x)$



- We can get both  $Q[Z]$  and  $Q[Y]$  from  $Q[V]$  using c-component decomposition with  $G$  and  $P(\mathbf{v})$ .

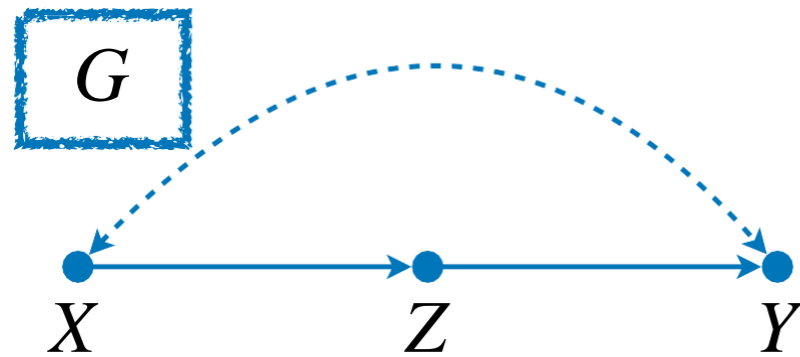
$$Q[Z] = \frac{Q[Z]}{Q[\emptyset]} = \frac{\sum_{y,x} Q[Z, X, Y]}{\sum_{z,y,x} Q[Z, X, Y]} = P(z)$$

$$Q[Y] = \frac{Q[Z, X, Y]}{Q[Z, X]} = P(y | z, x)$$

$$P(y | do(x)) = \sum_z P(y | z, x)P(z)$$

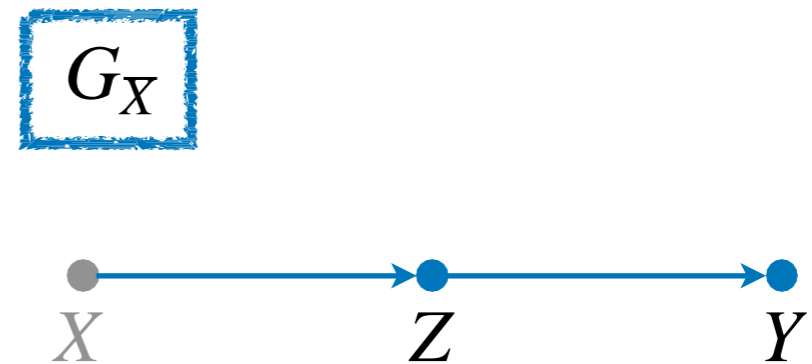
# Causal Effect in terms of C-Factors

- Consider an intervention



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = Q[X, Y] Q[Z]$$

$$Q[Z] = \frac{Q[X, Z]}{Q[X]} = P(z | x)$$

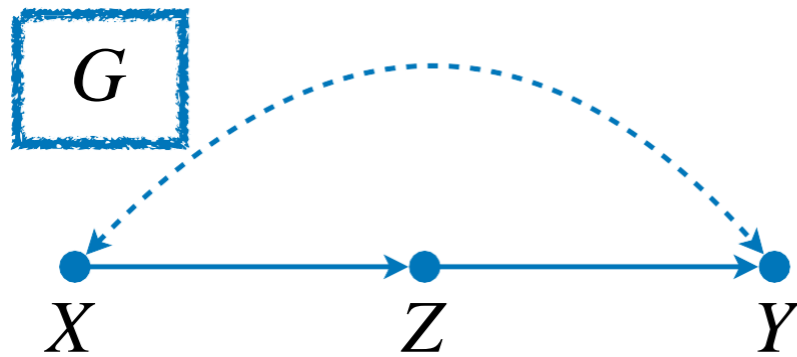


$$\begin{aligned} P(y | do(x)) &= \sum_z P(y, z | do(x)) \\ &= \sum_z Q[Y, Z] \\ &= \sum_z Q[Y] Q[Z] \end{aligned}$$

- $Q[Z]$  is the same in both
- Can we get  $Q[Y]$  from  $Q[X, Y]$  ?

# Causal Effect in terms of C-Factors

- Consider an intervention



$$Q[X, Y] = \frac{Q[X]}{Q[\emptyset]} \frac{Q[X, Z, Y]}{Q[X, Z]}$$

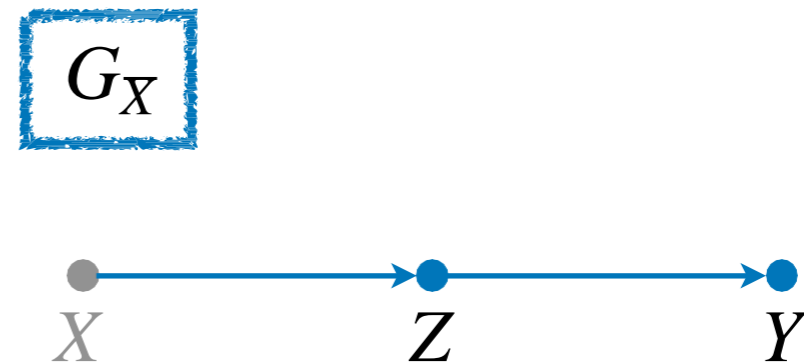
$$= P(x)P(y | x, z)$$

- $\{Y\}$  is ancestral in  $G_{\{X, Y\}}$



$$Q[Y] = \sum_x Q[X, Y]$$

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



$$P(y | do(x)) = \sum_z Q[Y]Q[Z]$$

$$= \sum_z \left( \sum_{x'} P(x')P(y | x', z) \right) P(z | x)$$

$$= \sum_z P(z | x) \sum_{x'} P(x')P(y | x', z)$$

Front-door!

# A General Approach

# A General Identification Algorithm

---

- Given  $G$  and the query variables  $X, Y$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{y} \mid do(\mathbf{x})) &= \sum_{\mathbf{v} \setminus (\mathbf{x} \cup \mathbf{y})} Q[\mathbf{V} \setminus \mathbf{X}] \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{d} \setminus \mathbf{y}} Q[\mathbf{D}] \quad \text{where } \mathbf{D} = An(\mathbf{Y}) \text{ in } G_{\mathbf{X}} \end{aligned}$$

- Suppose the graph  $G_{\mathbf{D}}$  has C-components  $\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2, \dots, \mathbf{D}_k$ , then

$$P(\mathbf{y} \mid do(\mathbf{x})) = \sum_{\mathbf{d} \setminus \mathbf{y}} \prod_i Q[\mathbf{D}_i]$$

# A General Identification Algorithm

---

Function  $\text{Identify}(C, T, Q)$

INPUT:  $C \subseteq T \subseteq V$ ,  $Q = Q[T]$ . Assuming  $G_T$  is composed of one single c-component.

OUTPUT: Expression for  $Q[C]$  in terms of  $Q$  or fail to determine.

Let  $A = \text{An}(C)_{G_T}$ .

- IF  $A = C$ , output  $Q[C] = \sum_{T \setminus C} Q$ .
- IF  $A = T$ , output FAIL.
- IF  $C \subset A \subset T$ 
  1. Assume that in  $G_A$ ,  $C$  is contained in a c-component  $T'$ .
  2. Compute  $Q[T']$  from  $Q[A] = \sum_{T \setminus A} Q$  by Lemma 11.
  3. Output  $\text{Identify}(C, T', Q[T'])$ .

Figure 5.9: A function determining if  $Q[C]$  is computable from  $Q[T]$ .

# Completeness

---

**Theorem** [Huang and Valtorta, 2008]

The causal effect  $P(\mathbf{y}/do(\mathbf{x}))$  is identifiable from causal diagram  $G$  and  $P(\mathbf{v})$  if and only if each of the C-factors  $Q[\mathbf{D}_i]$  is identifiable by

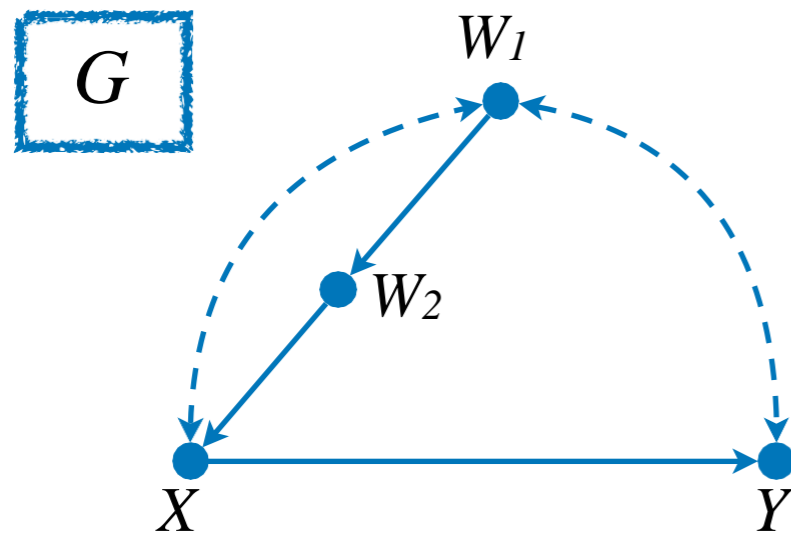
`Identify(Di, Ci, Q[Ci], G)`.

Where  $\mathbf{C}_i$  is the C-component of  $G$  containing  $\mathbf{D}_i$ .



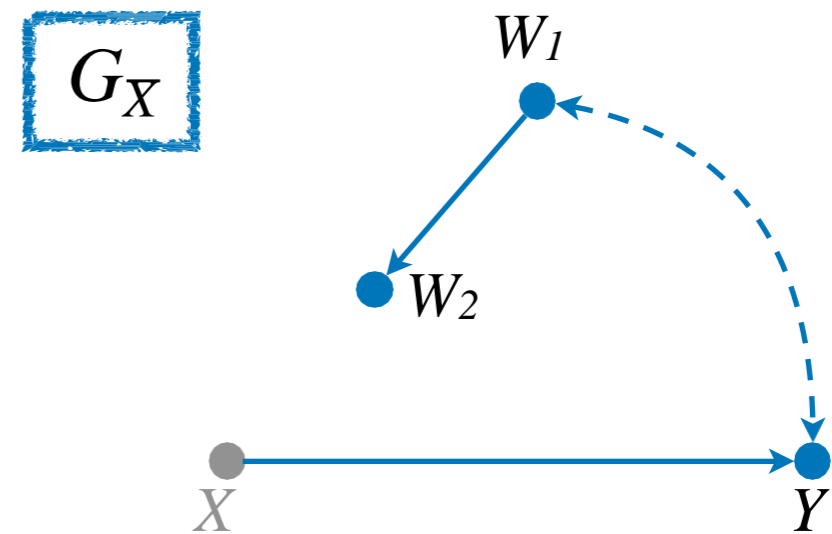
# Solving the Napkin

- Recall the Napkin graph from last time



$$P(\mathbf{v}) = Q[W_1, X, Y]Q[W_2]$$

- $Q[W_1, X, Y]$  is computable from  $Q[V]$
- Can we get  $Q[Y]$  from  $Q[W_1, X, Y]$ ?



$$P(y | do(x)) = \sum_{w_1, w_2} Q[W_1, W_2, Y]$$

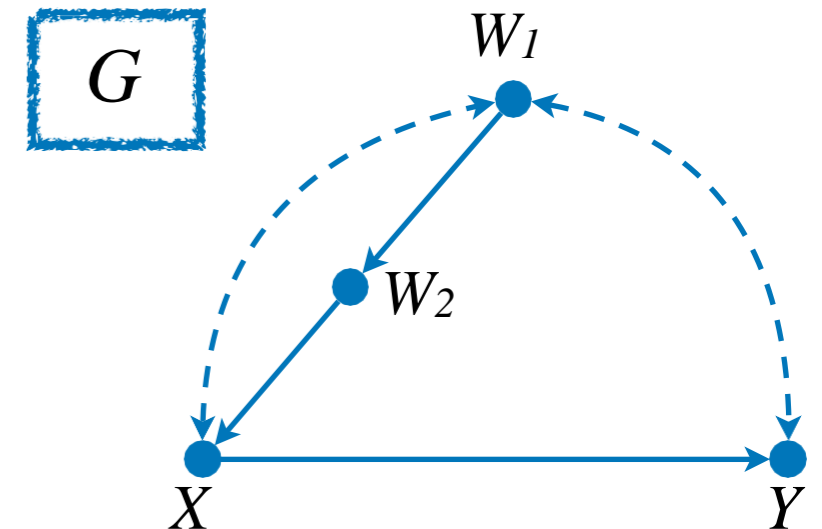
- $\{Y\}$  is ancestral in  $G_{\{W_1, W_2, Y\}}$ , so  $P(y | do(x)) = Q[Y]$

# Solving the Napkin

- We can compute  $Q[W_1, X, Y]$  from  $Q[W_1, W_2, X, Y]$

$$P(y | do(x)) = Q[Y]$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q[W_1, X, Y] &= \frac{Q[W_1] Q[W_1, W_2, X] Q[W_1, W_2, X, Y]}{Q[\emptyset] Q[W_1, W_2] Q[W_1, W_2, X]} \\ &= \frac{P(w_1) P(w_1, w_2, x) P(w_1, w_2, x, y)}{1 P(w_1, w_2) P(w_1, w_2, x)} \\ &= P(w_1) P(x | w_1, w_2) P(y | w_1, w_2, x) \end{aligned}$$

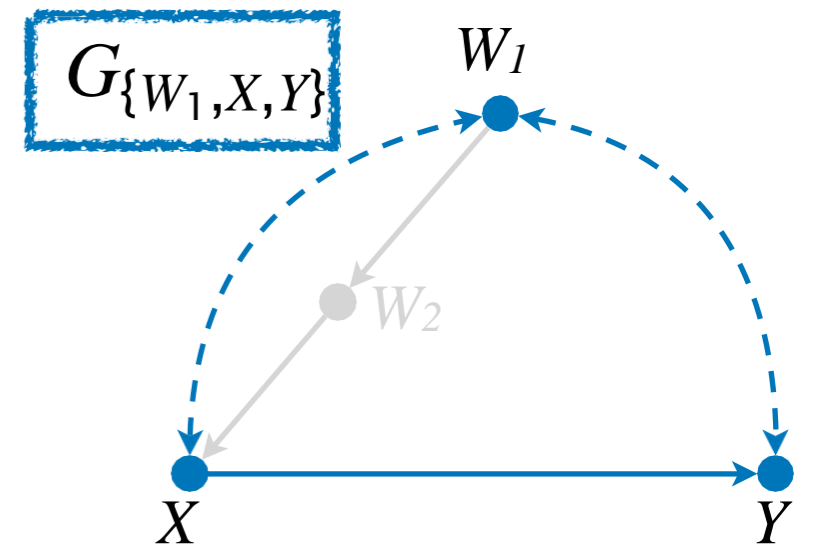


# Solving the Napkin

- $\{X, Y\}$  is ancestral in  $G_{\{W_1, X, Y\}}$

$$\begin{aligned} Q[X, Y] &= \sum_{w_1} Q[W_1, X, Y] \\ &= \sum_{w_1} P(w_1)P(x | w_1, w_2)P(y | w_1, w_2, x) \end{aligned}$$

$$P(y | do(x)) = Q[Y]$$



# Solving the Napkin

- $G_{\{X,Y\}}$  has two c-components, hence

$$P(y | do(x)) = Q[Y]$$

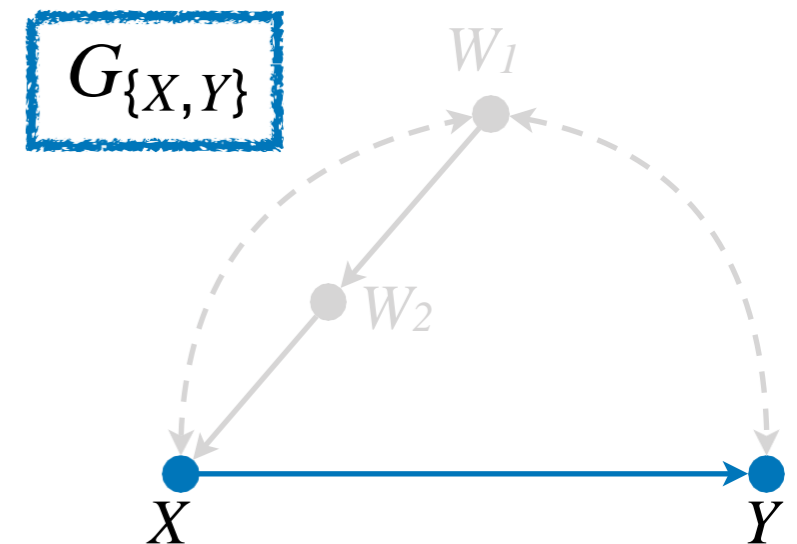
$$Q[X, Y] = Q[X]Q[Y]$$

$$Q[Y] = \frac{Q[X, Y]}{Q[X]} = \frac{Q[X, Y]}{\sum_y Q[X, Y]}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{w_1} P(w_1)P(x | w_1, w_2)P(y | w_1, w_2, x)}{\sum_{y, w_1} P(w_1)P(x | w_1, w_2)P(y | w_1, w_2, x)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{w_1} P(w_1)P(x | w_1, w_2)P(y | w_1, w_2, x)}{\sum_{w_1} P(w_1)P(x | w_1, w_2)}$$

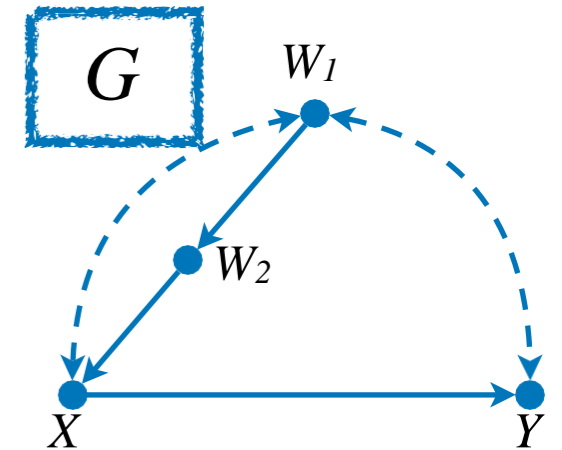
$$= P(y | do(x))$$



# Solve the Napkin using Do-Calculus

- Let's see an equivalent do-calculus derivation

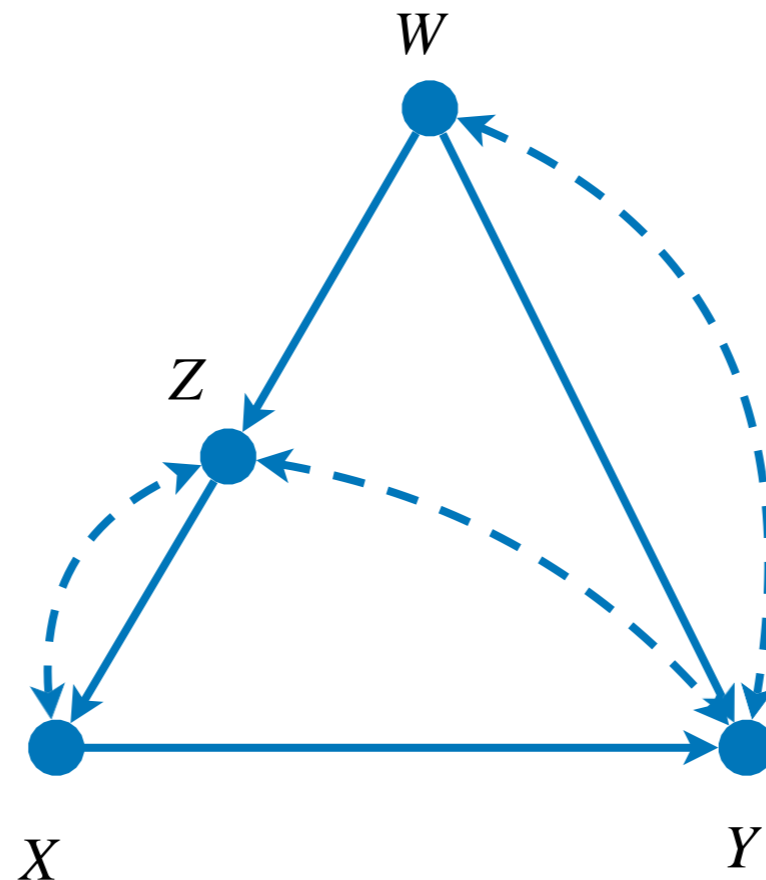
$$\begin{aligned}
 P(y | do(x)) &= P(y | do(x, w_2, w_1)) && \text{Rule 3: } (Y \perp\!\!\!\perp W_2, W_1 / X)_{G_{\overline{XW_1, W_2}}} \\
 &= P(y | x, do(w_2, w_1)) && \text{Rule 2: } (Y \perp\!\!\!\perp X / W_1, W_2)_{G_{\overline{XW_1, W_2}}} \\
 &= \frac{P(y, x | do(w_2, w_1))}{P(x | do(w_2, w_1))} && \text{Conditional probability} \\
 &= \frac{P(y, x | do(w_2))}{P(x | do(w_2))} && \text{Rule 3: } (Y, X \perp\!\!\!\perp W_1 / W_2)_{G_{\overline{W_1, W_2}}} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{w_1} P(y, x | do(w_2), w_1) P(w_1 | do(w_2))}{\sum_{w_1} P(x | do(w_2), w_1) P(w_1 | do(w_2))} && \text{Condition on } W_1 \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{w_1} P(y, x | w_2, w_1) P(w_1)}{\sum_{w_1} P(x | w_2, w_1) P(w_1)} && \text{Rule 2: } (Y, X \perp\!\!\!\perp W_2 / W_1)_{G_{\underline{W_2}}} \\
 & && \text{Rule 3: } (W_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp W_2)_{G_{\underline{W_2}}}
 \end{aligned}$$



# Food for Thought

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- Use the strategy discussed in this lecture to identify the effect  $P(y/do(x))$  in the following causal diagram



# References

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- Tian, J. (2002). *Studies in Causal Reasoning and Learning*. Computer Science Department, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- Tian, J., & Pearl, J. (2002). A General Identification Condition for Causal Effects. In *Proceedings of the Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2002)* (pp. 567–573). Menlo Park, CA: AAAI Press/The MIT Press
- Huang, Y., & Valtorta, M. (2008). On the completeness of an identifiability algorithm for semi-Markovian models. *Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence*, 54(4), 363–408.

# Project Information

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Link

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/985rnnmlzfllya2rxjccx/project-2024.docx?rlkey=tddqaa442otsf02xo2lhzecjk&dl=0>