



Sampling for General Inference

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CS109, Stanford University

Midterm

Midterm (part 1)

1



2



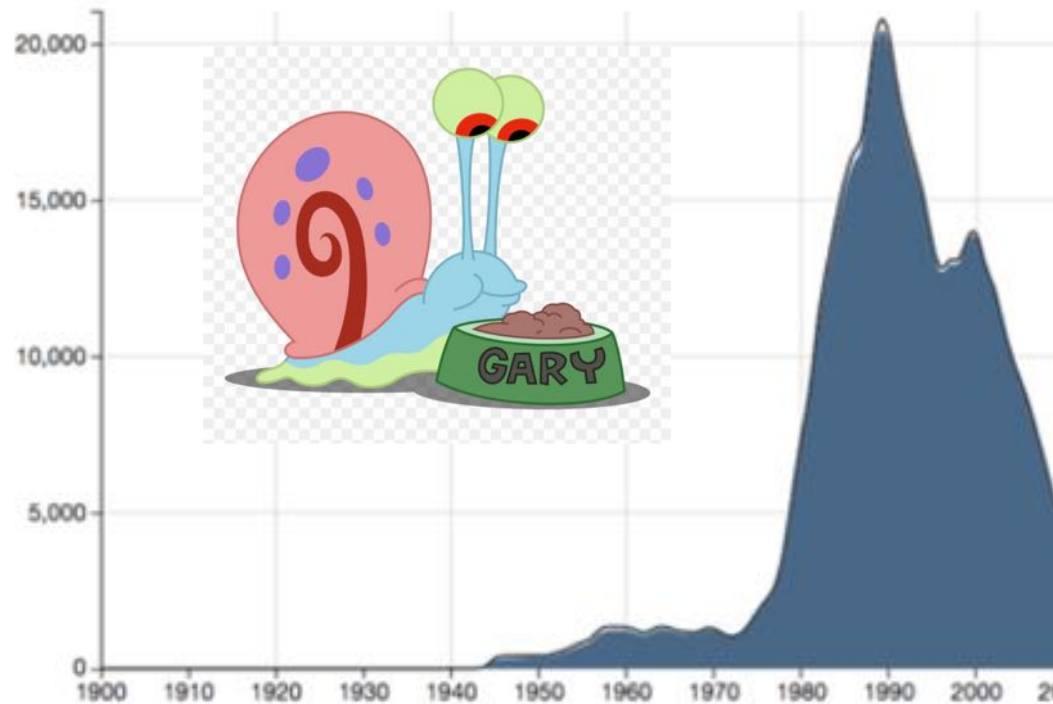
3



Midterm (part 2)

4

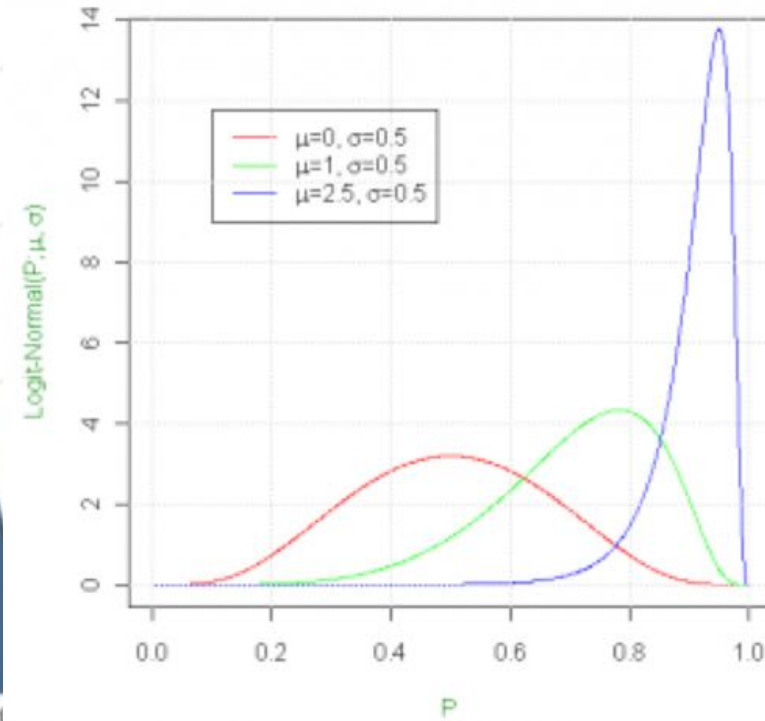
Birth years of American girls named Lauren

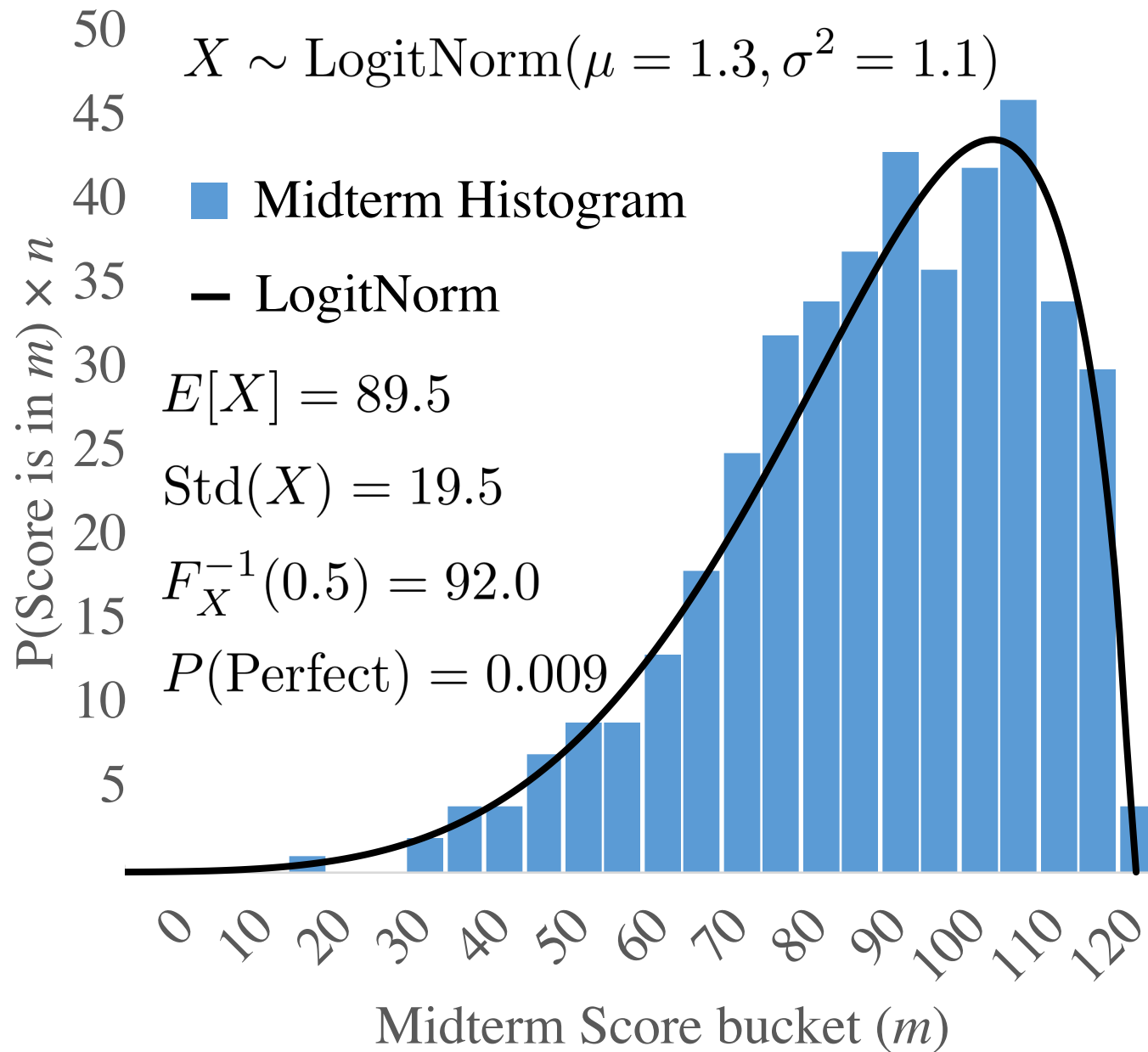


The median living girl named Lauren was born around 1992 and ranges from 16 to 29 years old.

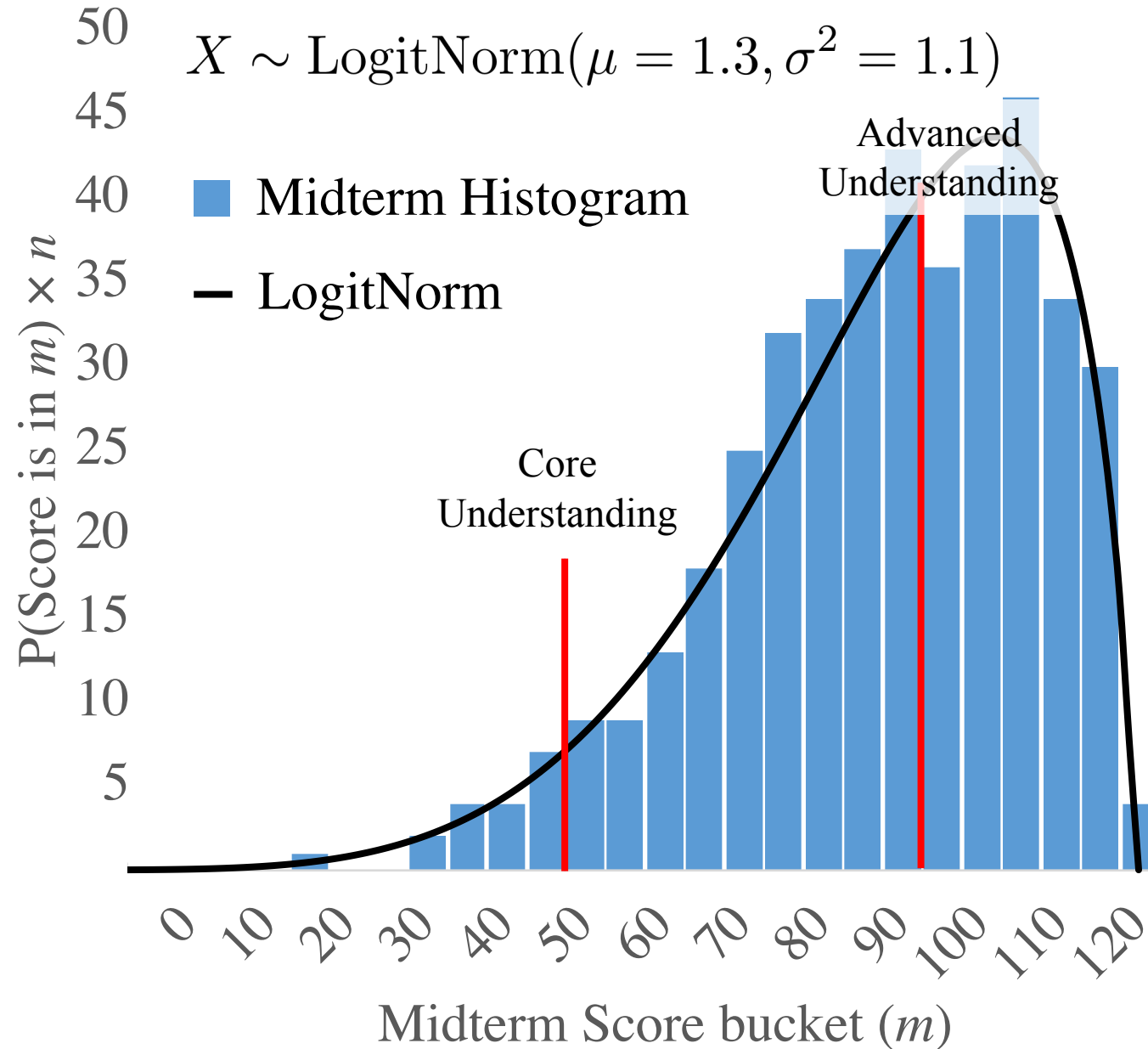
5

Examples of the Logit-Normal Distribution

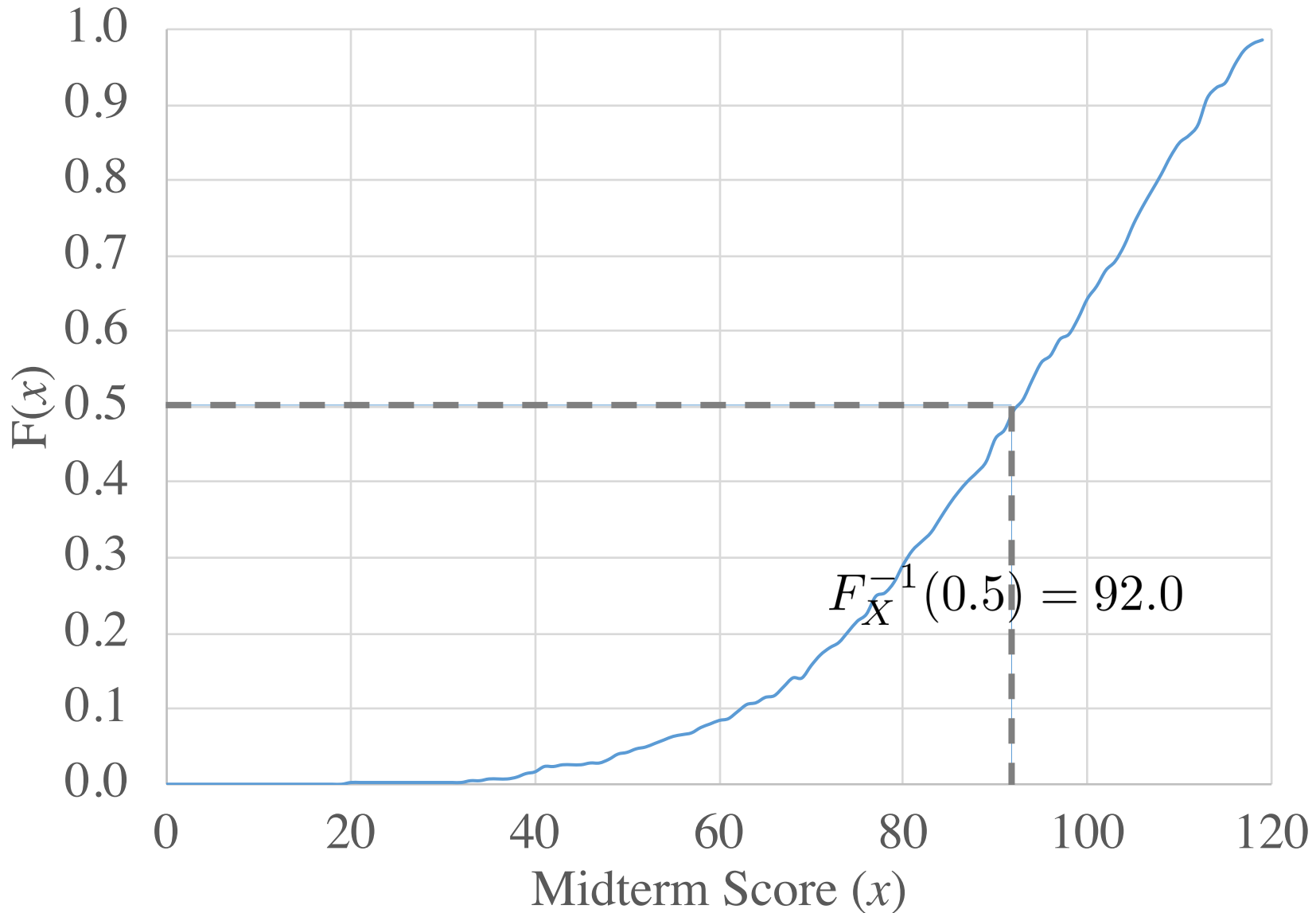




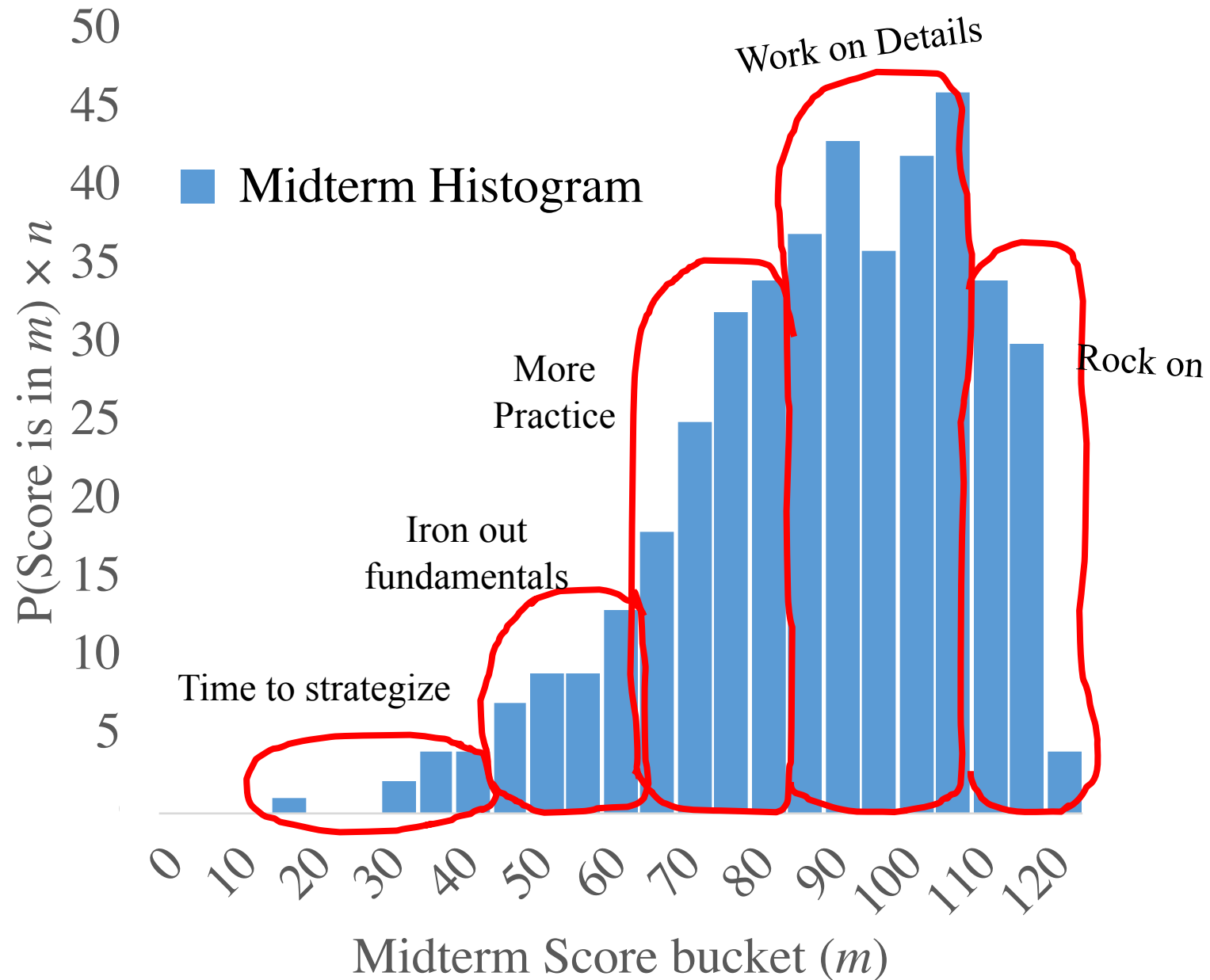
Midterm Distribution



Midterm Cumulative Density



Midterm Distribution



CS109 Contest



Something brand **new**...

General “Inference”



General “Inference”

WebMD Symptom Checker BETA

INFO

SYMPTOMS

QUESTIONS

CONDITIONS

DETAILS

TREATMENT

Add more symptoms

Type your main symptom here

or Choose common symptoms

bloating

cough

diarrhea

dizziness

fatigue

fever

headache

muscle cramp

nausea

throat irritation

AGE 30

GENDER Male

MY SYMPTOMS

cough ✕

throat irritation ✕

sneezing ✕

Results Strength: MODERATE

< Previous

Continue >

Info

Conditions that match your symptoms

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS 

Influenza (flu) adults



Moderate match



Pneumococcal infections



Moderate match



H1N1 Flu Virus (Swine Flu)



Moderate match



Bacterial Pneumonia



Moderate match



Sepsis (blood infection)



Moderate match



Gender **Male**

Age **30**

[Edit](#)

My Symptoms

[Edit](#)

fever 103f to 104f, dizziness,

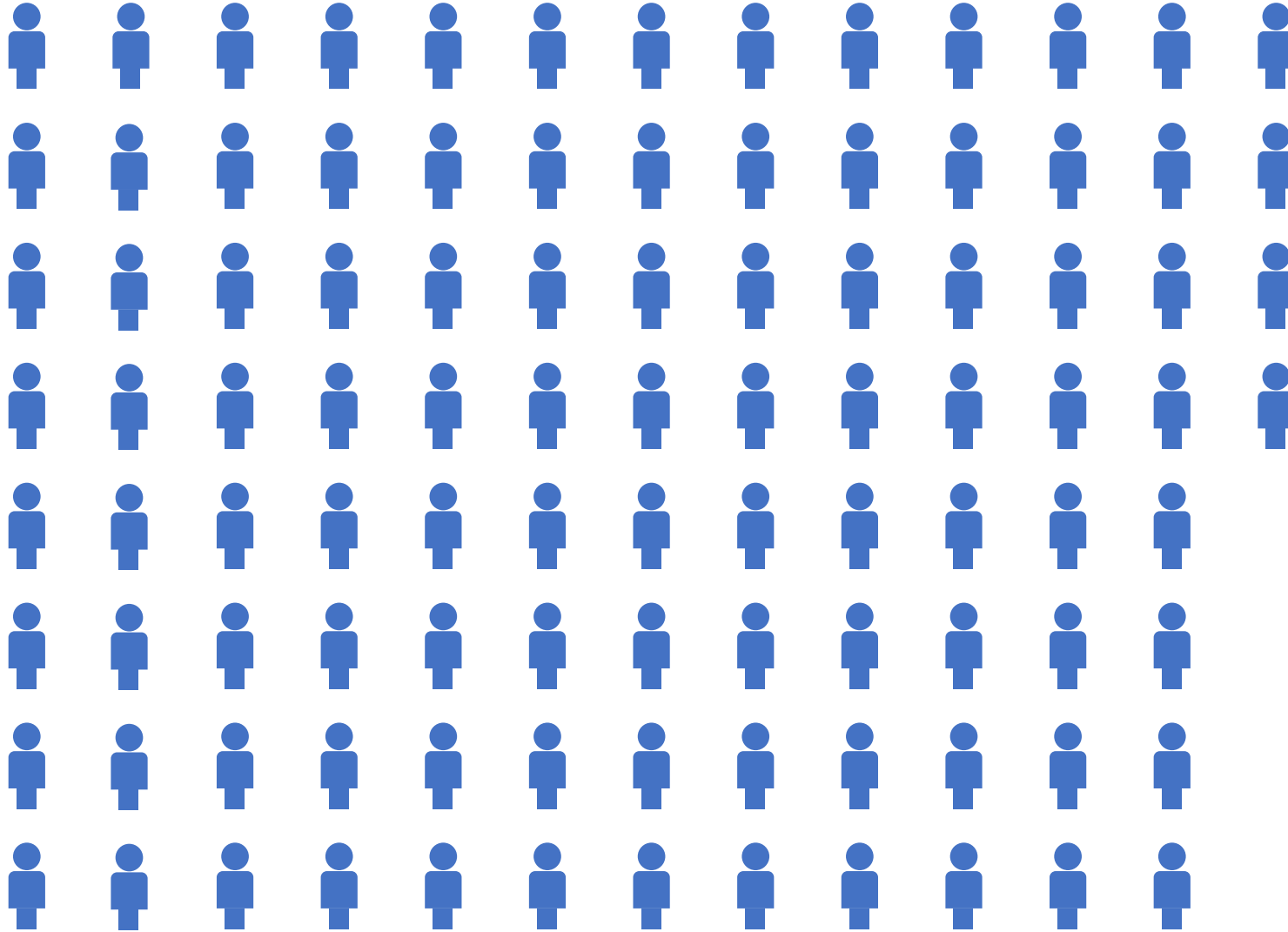
throat irritation, migraine headache



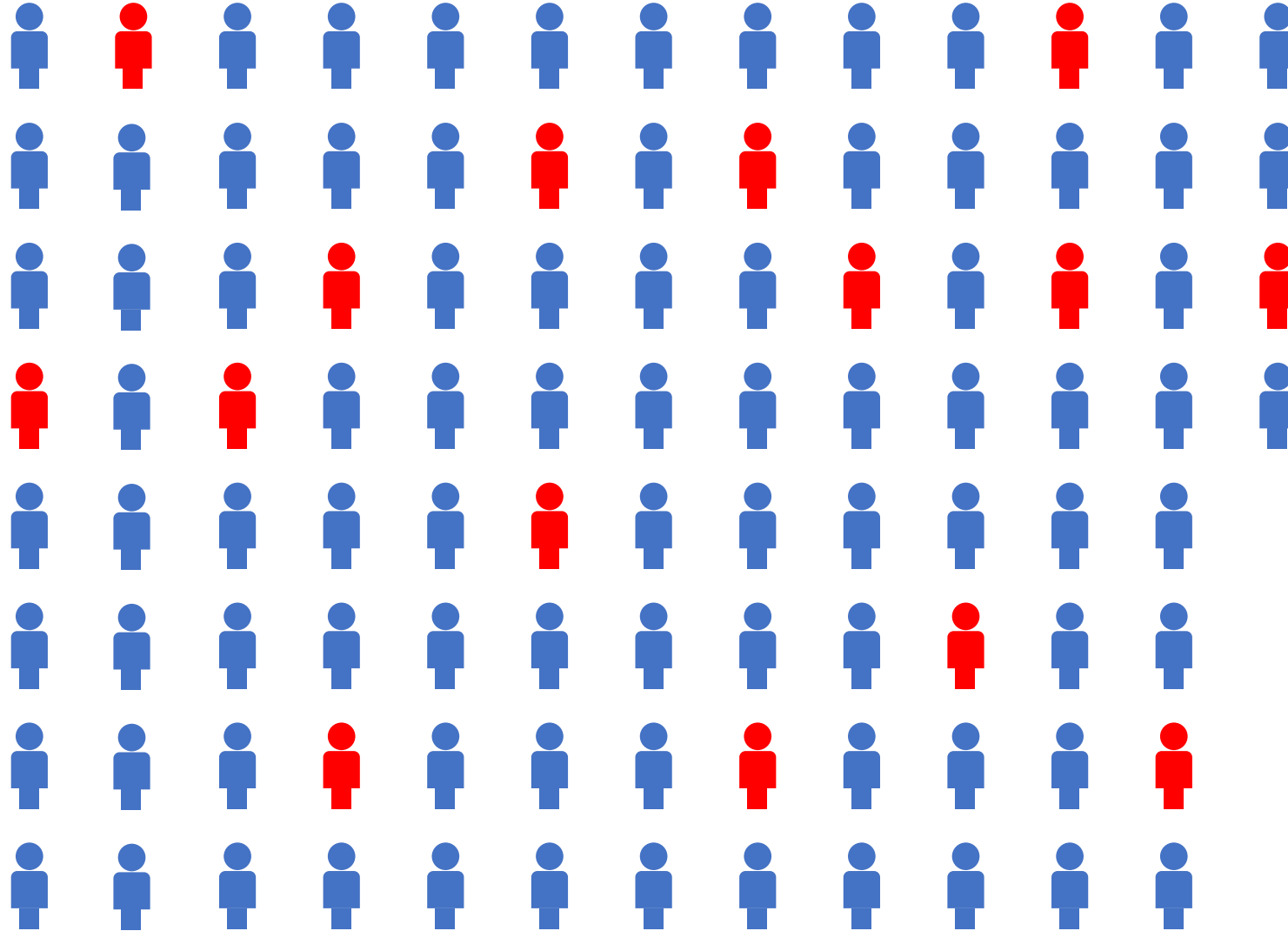
Start Over

Review

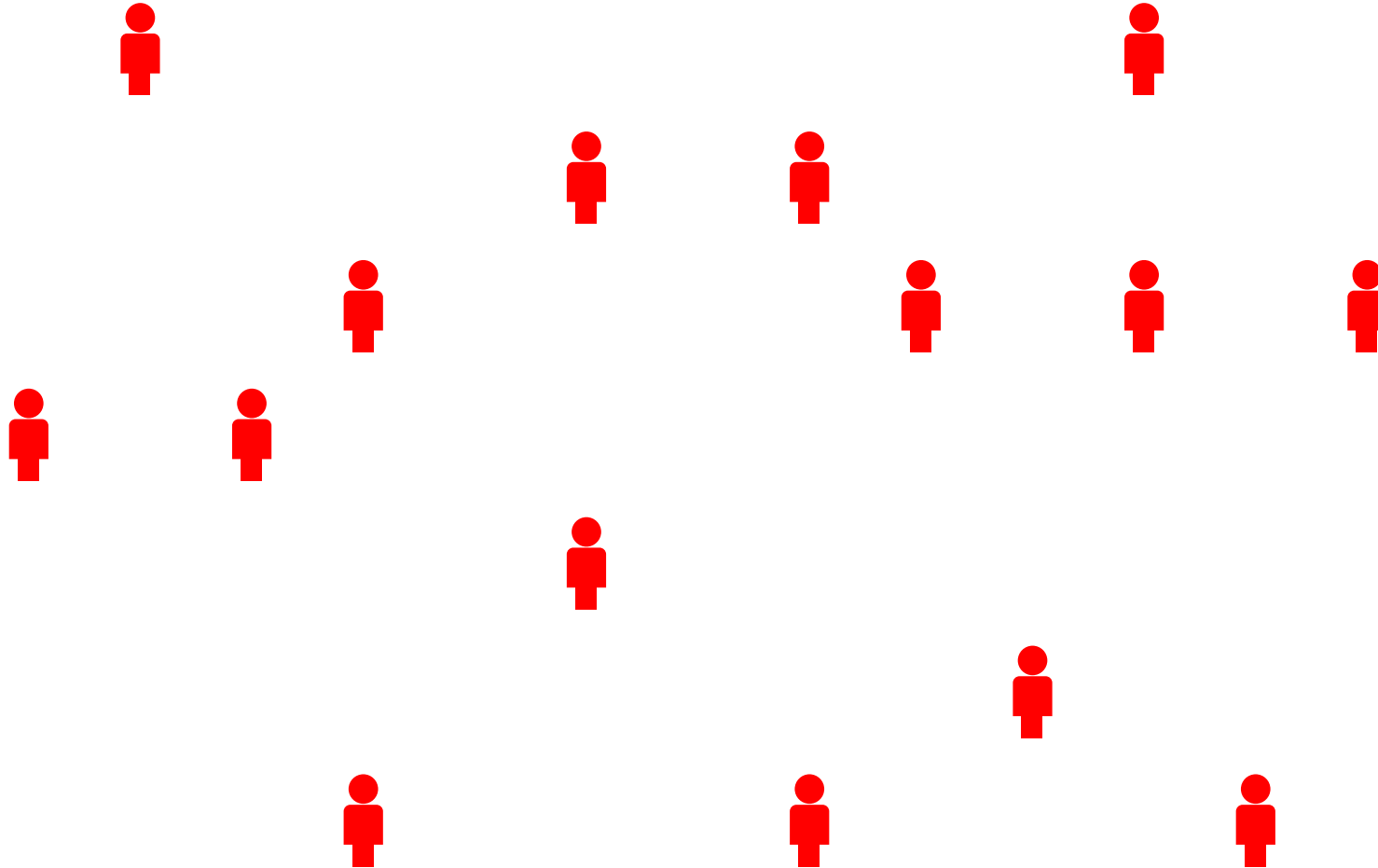
Population



Sample

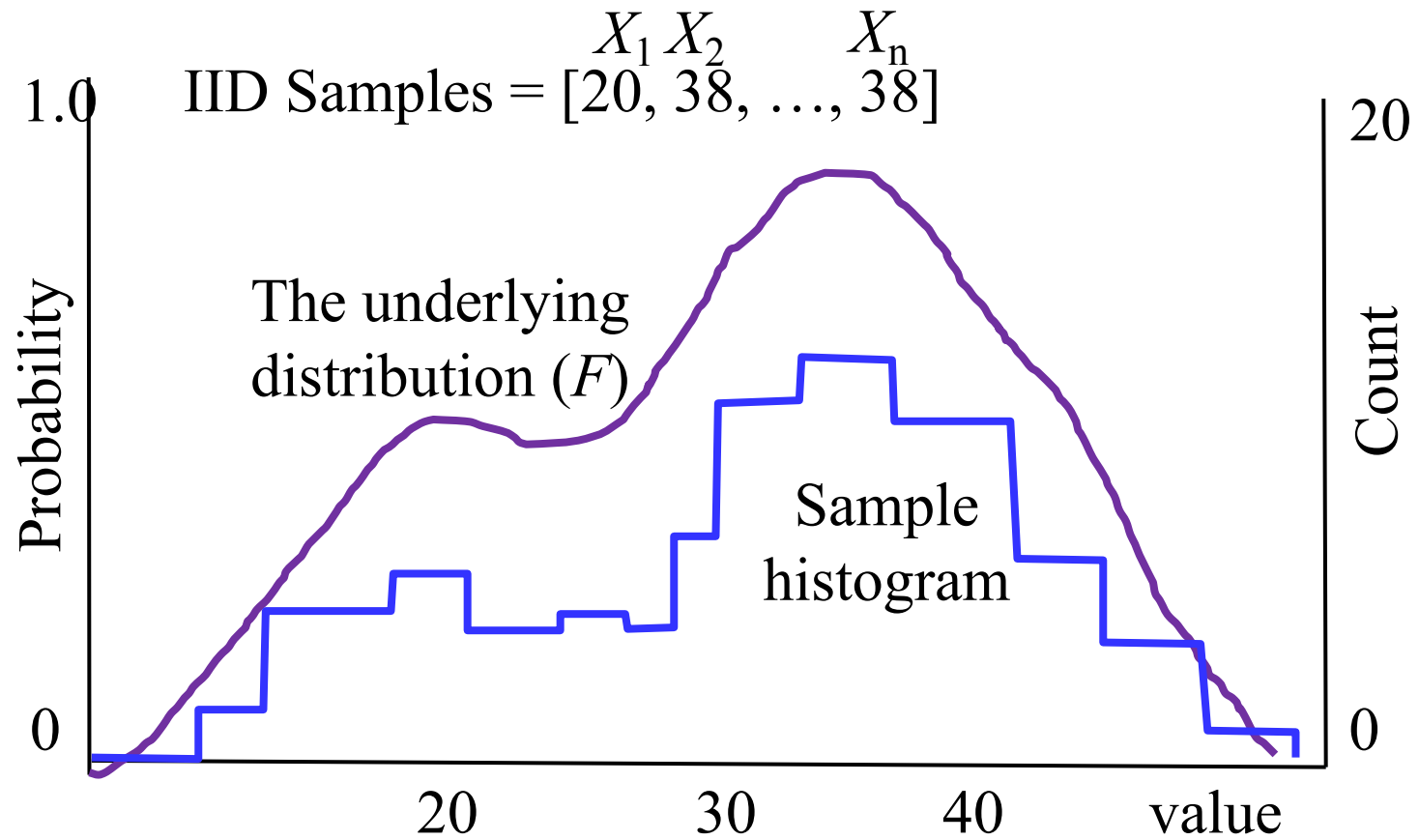


Sample

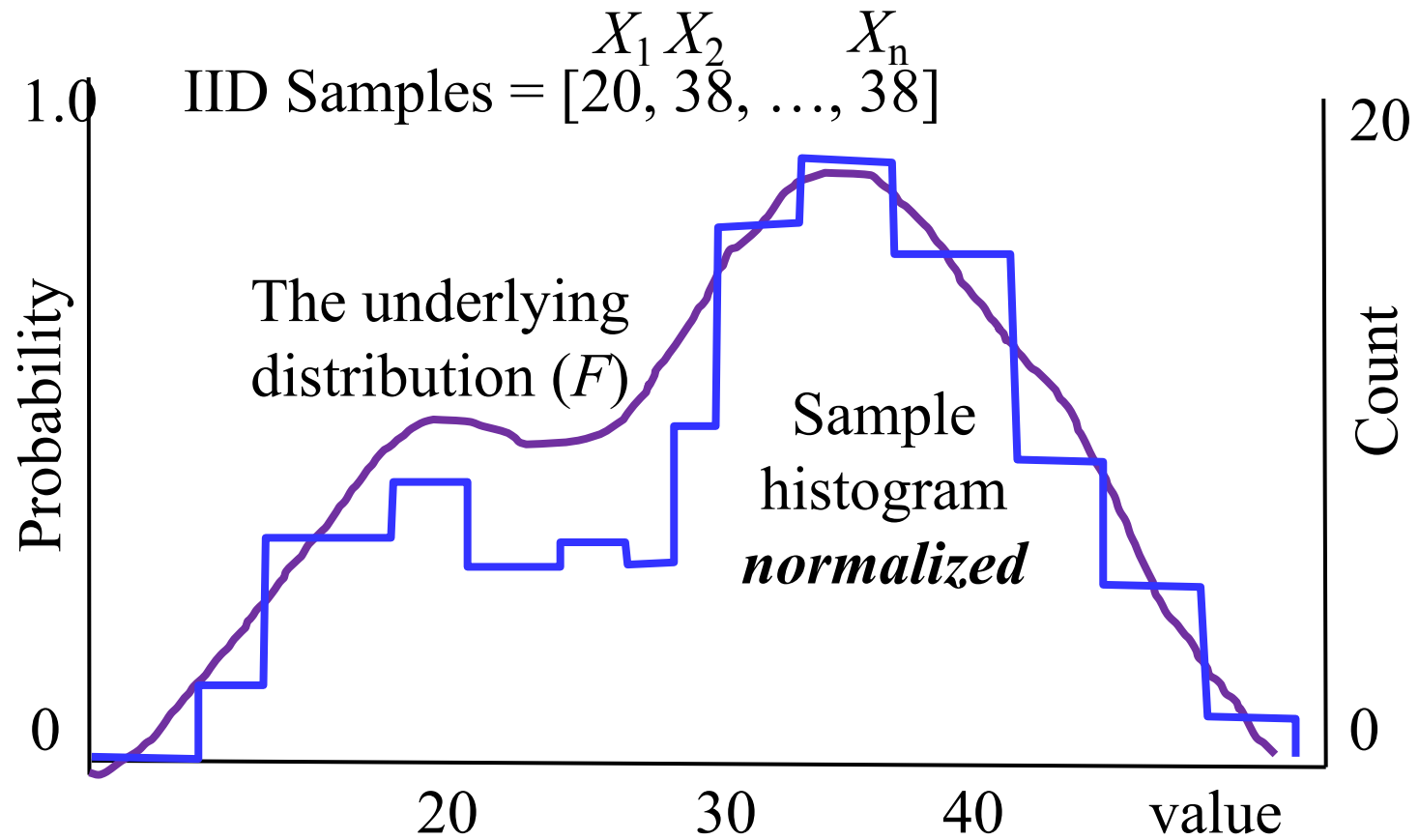


Collect one (or more) numbers from each person

Samples



Samples



Sample Statistics

Sample Mean

$$\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{X_i}{n}$$

Sample Variance

$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}$$

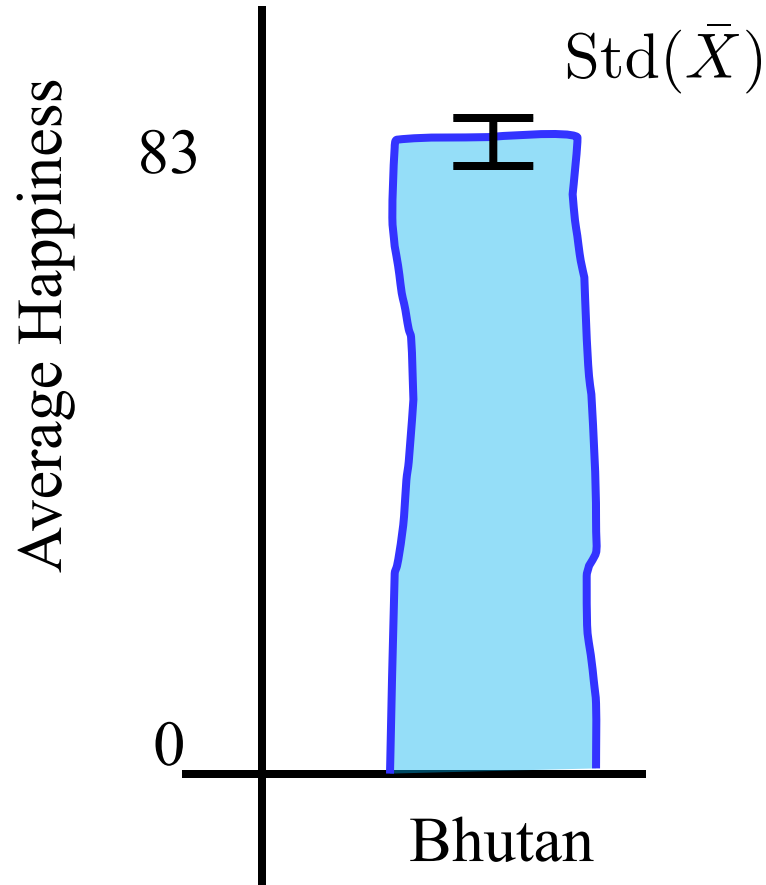
*Oh my that can be
thought of as a
random variable*

Var of Sample Mean

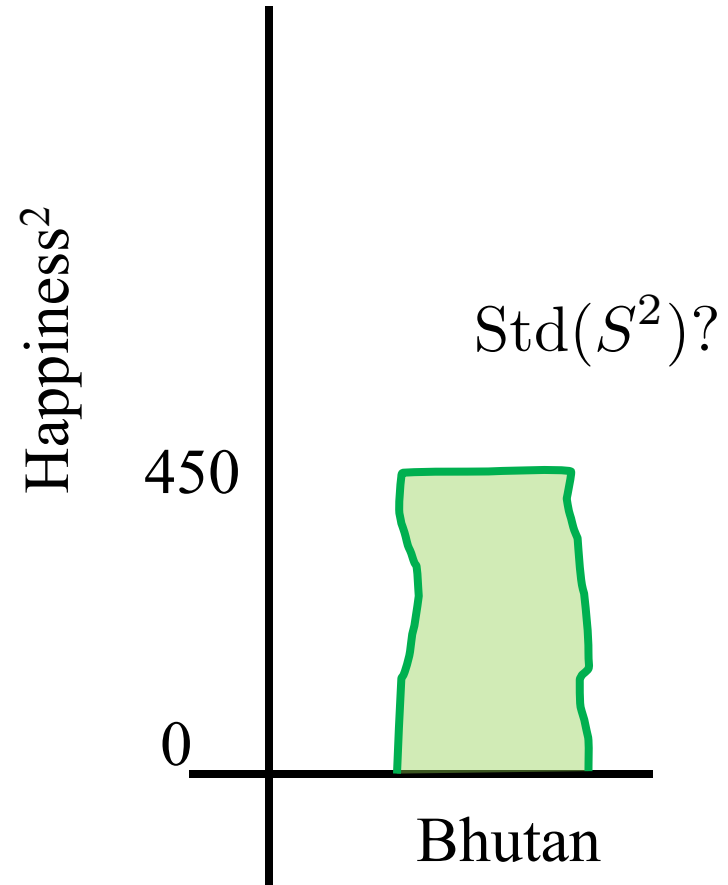
$$\text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{S^2}{n}$$

Sample Mean

Average Happiness



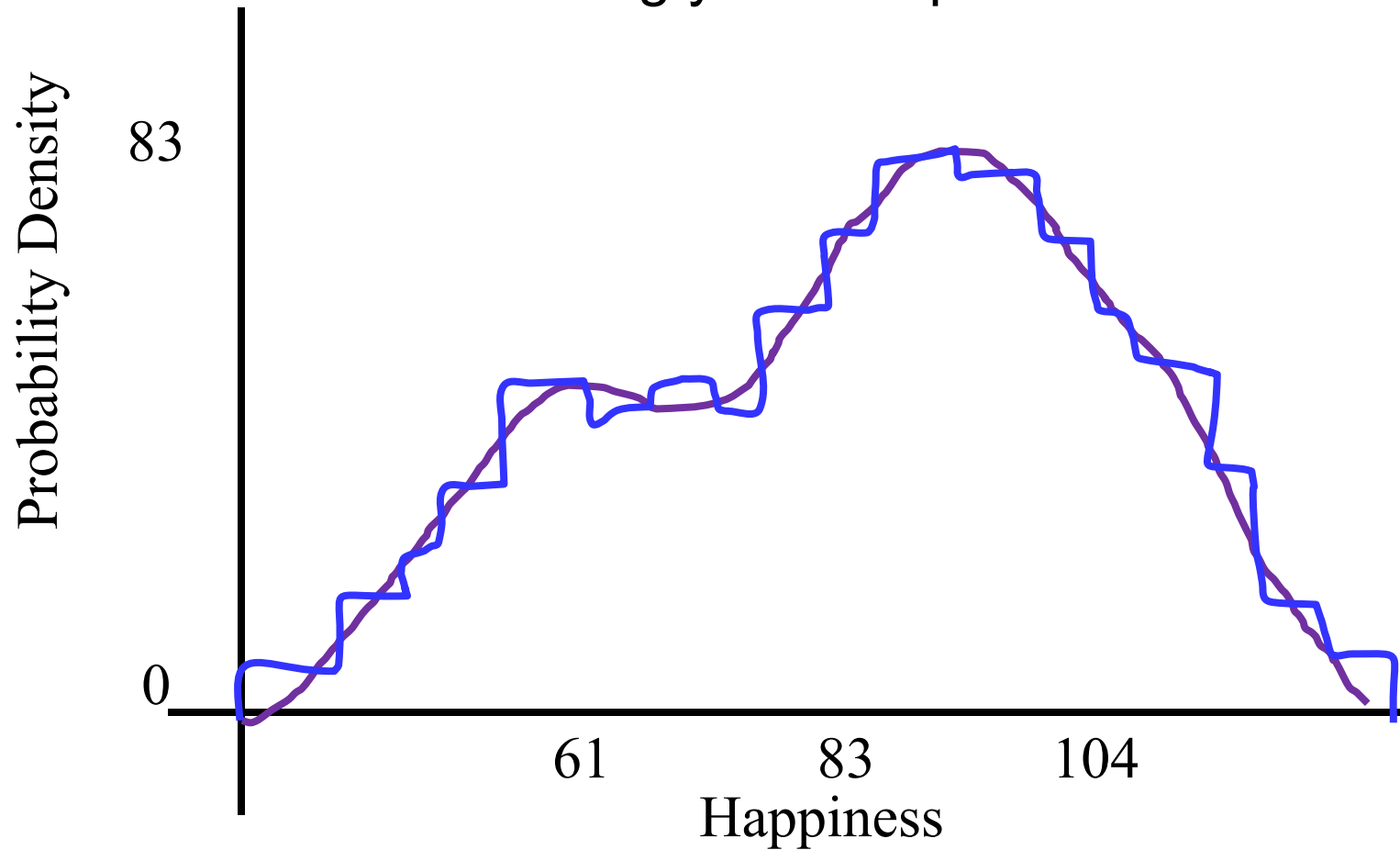
Variance of Happiness



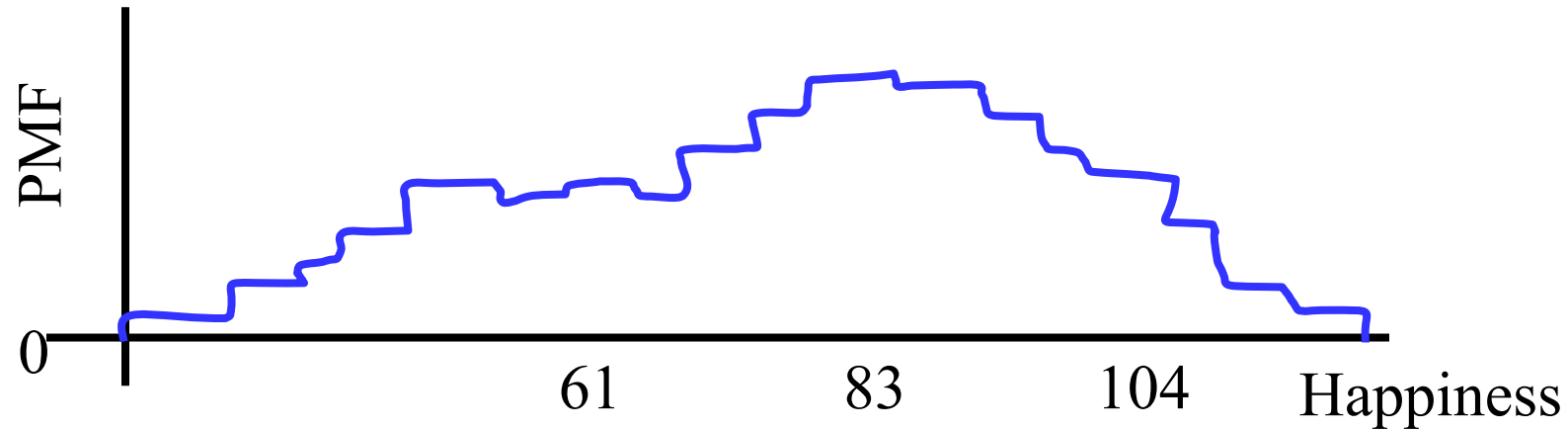
Claim: The average happiness of Bhutan is 83 ± 2

Bootstrap Insight

You can estimate the PMF of the underlying distribution, using your sample.



Bootstrap for Any Stat



Bootstrap Algorithm (sample):

1. Repeat **10,000** times:
 - a. Choose `len(sample)` elems from sample, **with replacement**
 - b. Recalculate the stat on the resample
2. You now have a **distribution of your stat**



A **non-parametric** continuous distribution can be represented in a **computer** as a **list** of numbers sampled from the distribution

$\text{Vars} = [472.7, 478.4, 469.2, \dots, 476.2]$

End Review

Bootstrap for p values

Null Hypothesis Test

Population 1

4.44
3.36
5.87
2.31
...
3.70

$$\mu_1 = 3.1$$

Population 2

2.15
3.01
2.02
1.43
...
1.83

$$\mu_2 = 2.4$$

Null Hypothesis Test

Nepal Happiness	Bhutan Happiness
4.44	2.15
3.36	3.01
5.87	2.02
2.31	1.43
...	...
3.70	1.83

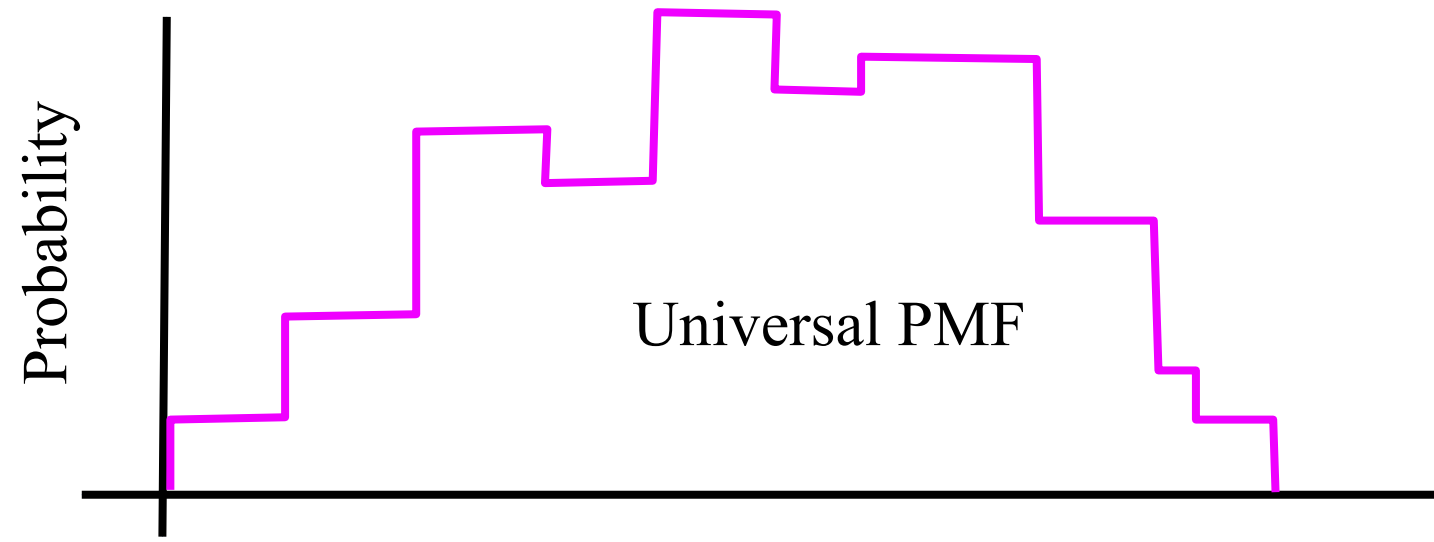
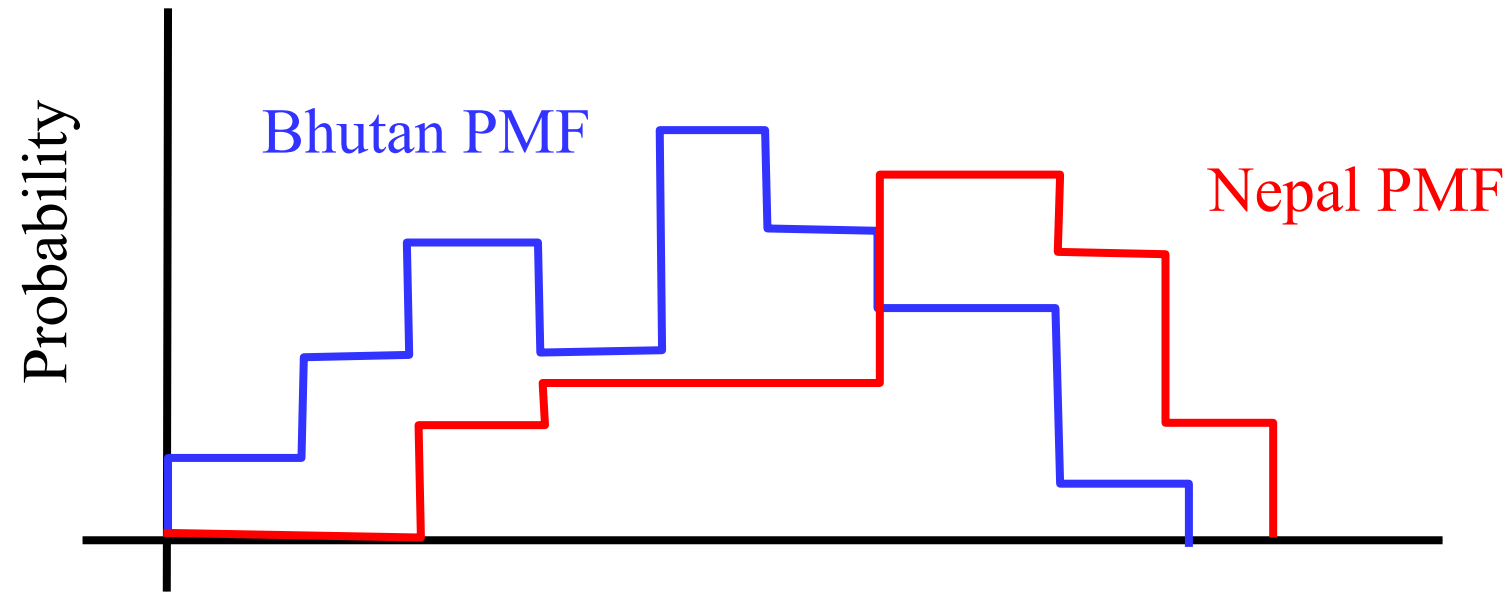
$\mu_1 = 3.1$ $\mu_2 = 2.4$

Claim: The difference in happiness between Nepal and Bhutan is 0.7 happiness points.



Null hypothesis: even if **there is no pattern** (ie the two samples are identically distributed) your claim might have arisen by **chance**.

Universal Sample



Bootstrap for P Values

```
def pvalueBootstrap(bhutanSample, nepalSample):  
    N = size of the bhutanSample  
    M = size of the nepalSample  
  
    uniSamples = combine bhutanSamples and nepalSamples  
    count = 0  
  
    repeat 10,000 times:  
        bhutanResample = draw N resamples from the uniSamples  
        nepalResample = draw M resamples from the uniSamples  
        muBhutan = sample mean of the bhutanResample  
        muNepal = sample mean of the nepalResample  
        meanDiff = |muNepal - muBhutan|  
        if meanDiff > observedDifference:  
            count += 1  
  
    pValue = count / 10,000
```



Bootstrap for P Values

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def pvalueBootstrap(bhutanSample, nepalSample):
```

```
    N = size of the bhutanSample
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```
    M = size of the nepalSample
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        meanDiff = |muNepal - muBhutan|
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```

```
    repeat 10,000 times:
```

With replacement!

```
        bhutanResample = draw N resamples from the uniSamples
```

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        nepalResample = draw M resamples from the uniSamples
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        muBhutan = sample mean of the bhutanResample
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        meanDiff = |muNepal - muBhutan|
```

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        if meanDiff > observedDifference:
```

```
            count += 1
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    pValue = count / 10,000
```



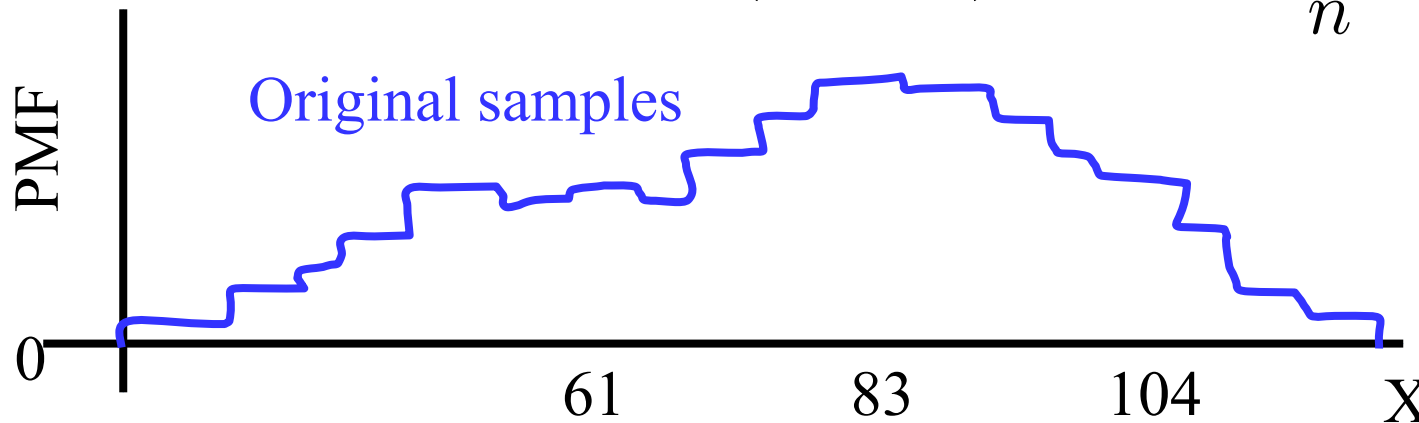
Algorithm in Practice

```
def resample(samples):  
    # Estimate the PMF using the samples  
    # Draw K new samples from the PMF
```


Algorithm in Practice

```
def resample(samples):  
    # Estimate the PMF using the samples  
    # Draw K new samples from the PMF  
    return np.random.choice(samples, K,  
                             replace = True)
```

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\text{count}(X = k)}{n}$$



Bootstrap

got assumptions?

Lets try it!



Null Hypothesis Test

Nepal Happiness	Bhutan Happiness
4.44	2.15
3.36	3.01
5.87	2.02
2.31	1.43
...	...
3.70	1.83

$\mu_1 = 3.1$ $\mu_2 = 2.4$

Claim: The difference in happiness between Nepal and Bhutan is 0.7 happiness points ($p < 0.008$).

Null Hypothesis Test

Nepal Happiness

4.44
3.36
5.87
2.31
...
3.70

$$\mu_1 = 3.1$$

Bhutan Happiness

2.15
3.01
2.02

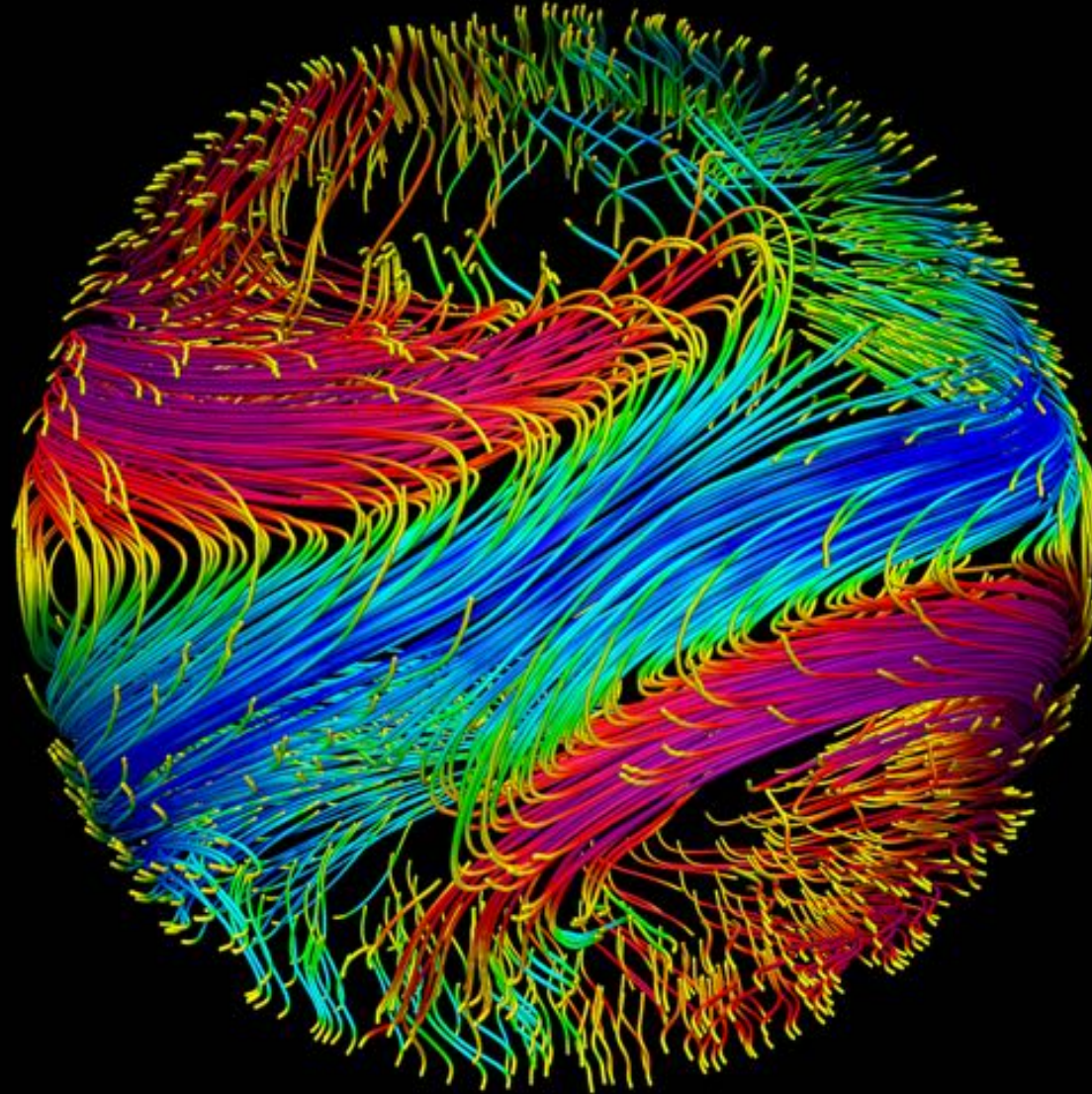
What about your
confidence in this
number?

$$\mu_2 = 2.4$$

Claim: The difference in happiness between Nepal and Bhutan is 0.7 happiness points ($p < 0.008$).



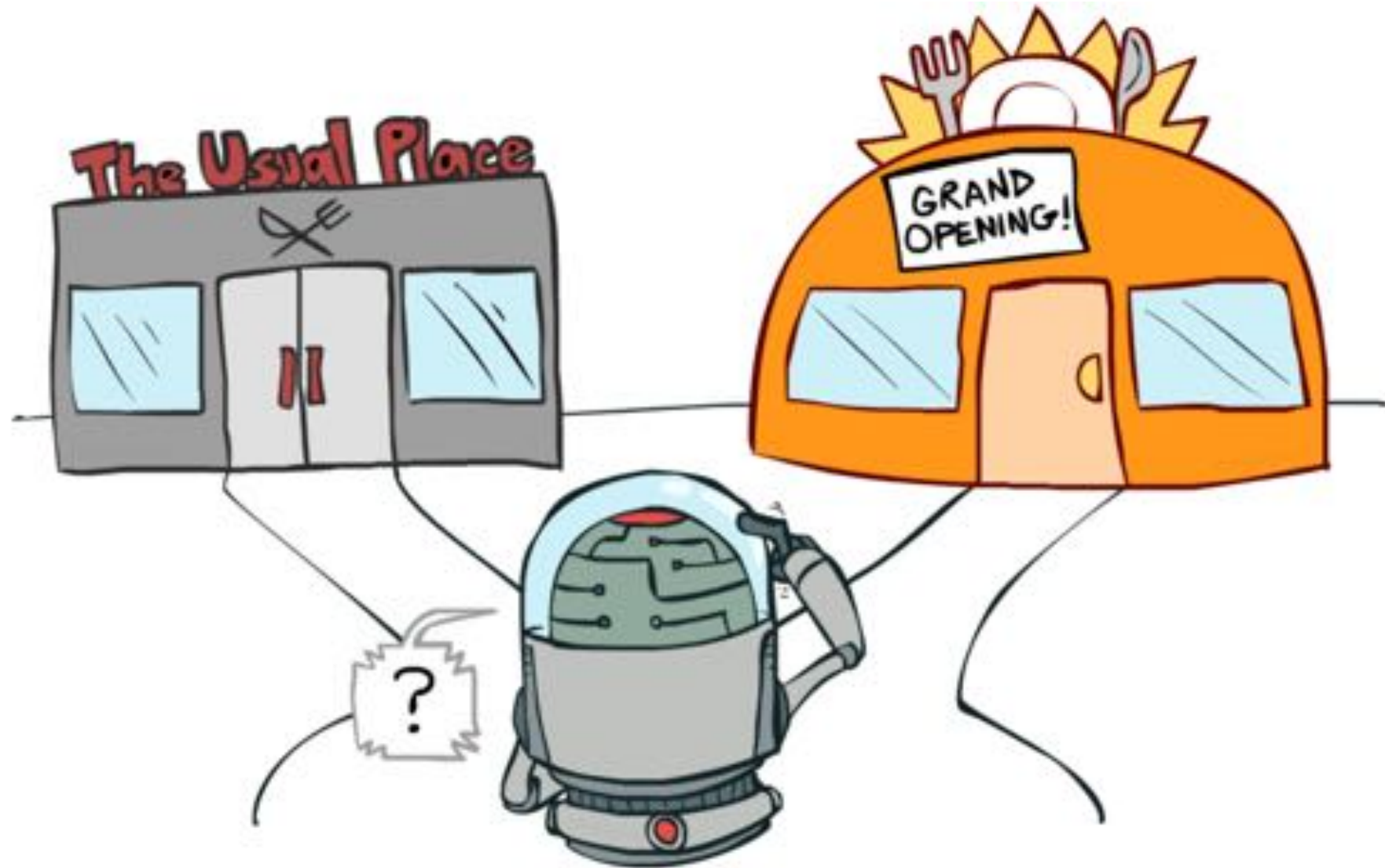
Randomized Algorithms



Bootstrapping



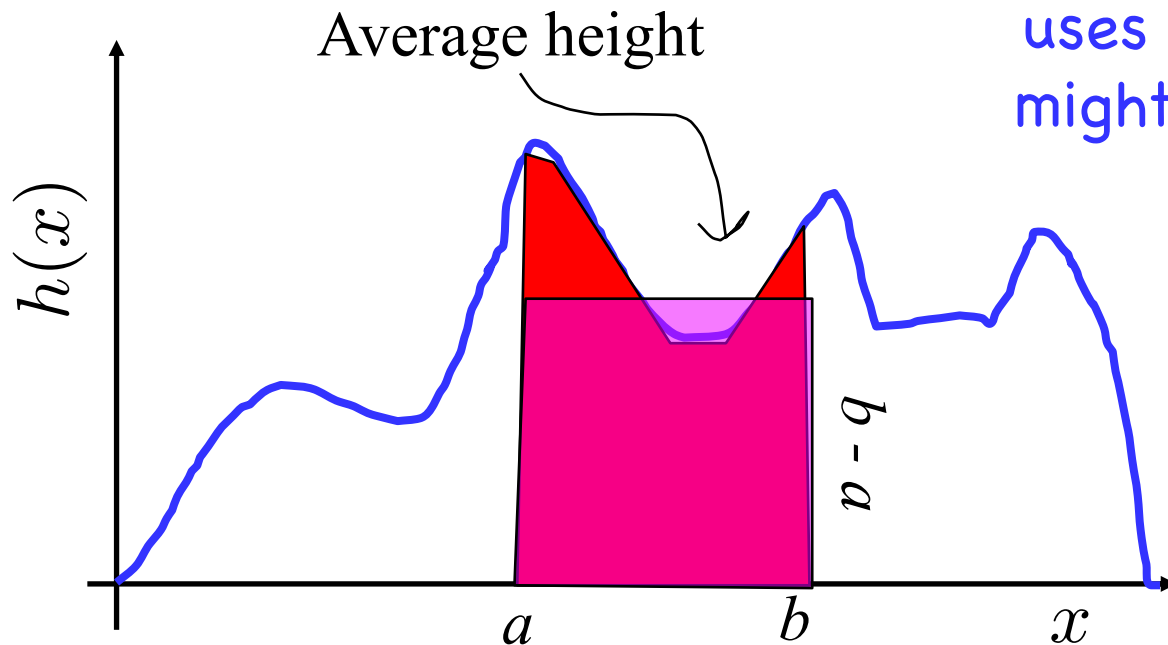
Thompson Sampling



Monte Carlo Integration

Generate N values (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N) uniformly sampled over a range (a, b) . We can approximate the integral of a function h over (a, b) as:

$$\int_a^b h(x) dx \approx \frac{(b-a)}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N h(X_i)$$



A "Monte Carlo" algorithm uses randomization but might not get the right answer

A Rose by Any Other Name



Las Vegas, Nevada

Monte Carlo, Monaco



Something brand **new**...

General “Inference”



General “Inference”

WebMD Symptom Checker BETA

INFO

SYMPTOMS

QUESTIONS

CONDITIONS

DETAILS

TREATMENT

Add more symptoms

Type your main symptom here

or Choose common symptoms

- bloating
- cough
- diarrhea
- dizziness
- fatigue
- fever
- headache
- muscle cramp
- nausea
- throat irritation

AGE 30

GENDER Male

MY SYMPTOMS

cough ×

throat irritation ×

sneezing ×

Results Strength: MODERATE

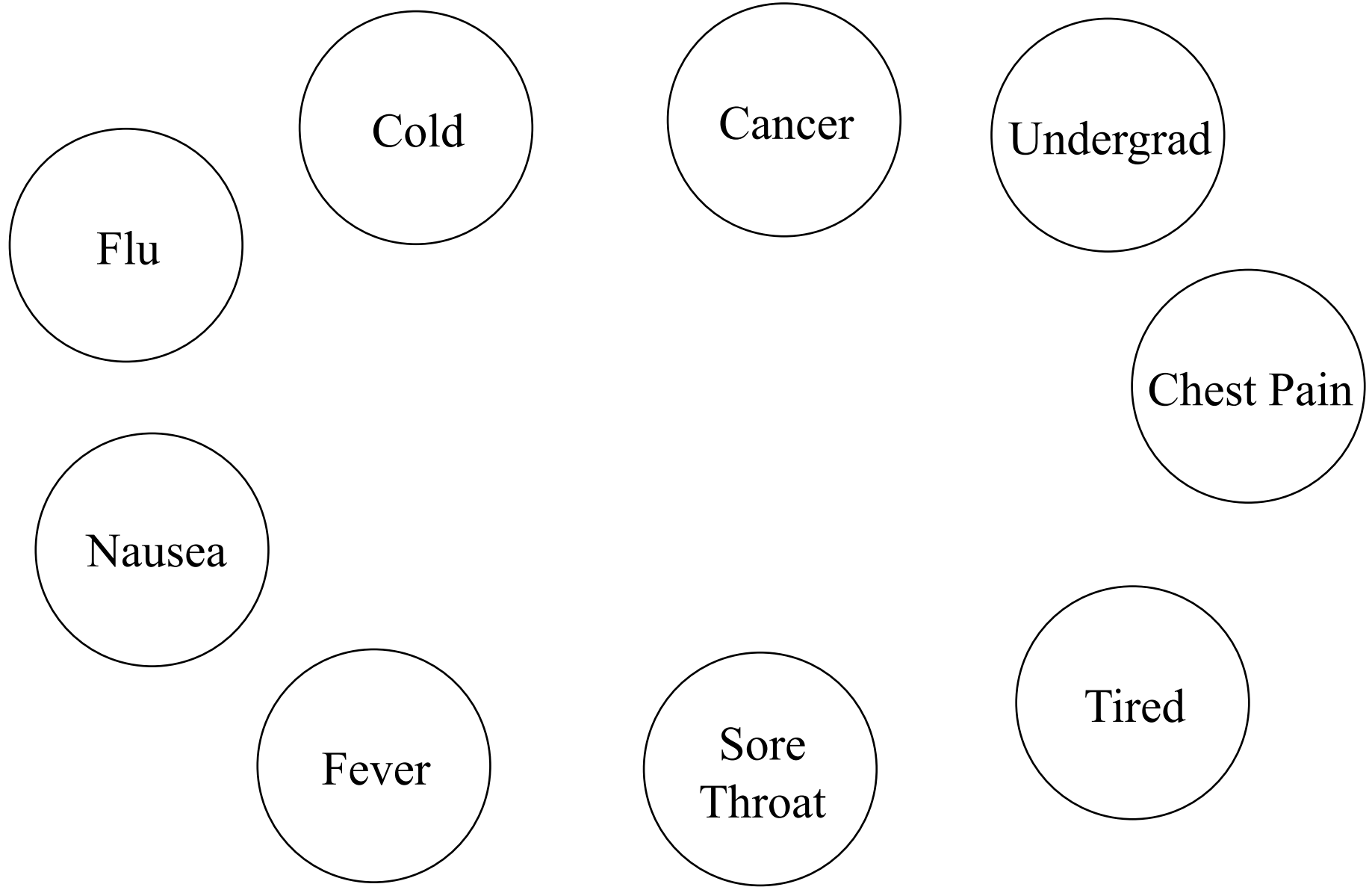


< Previous

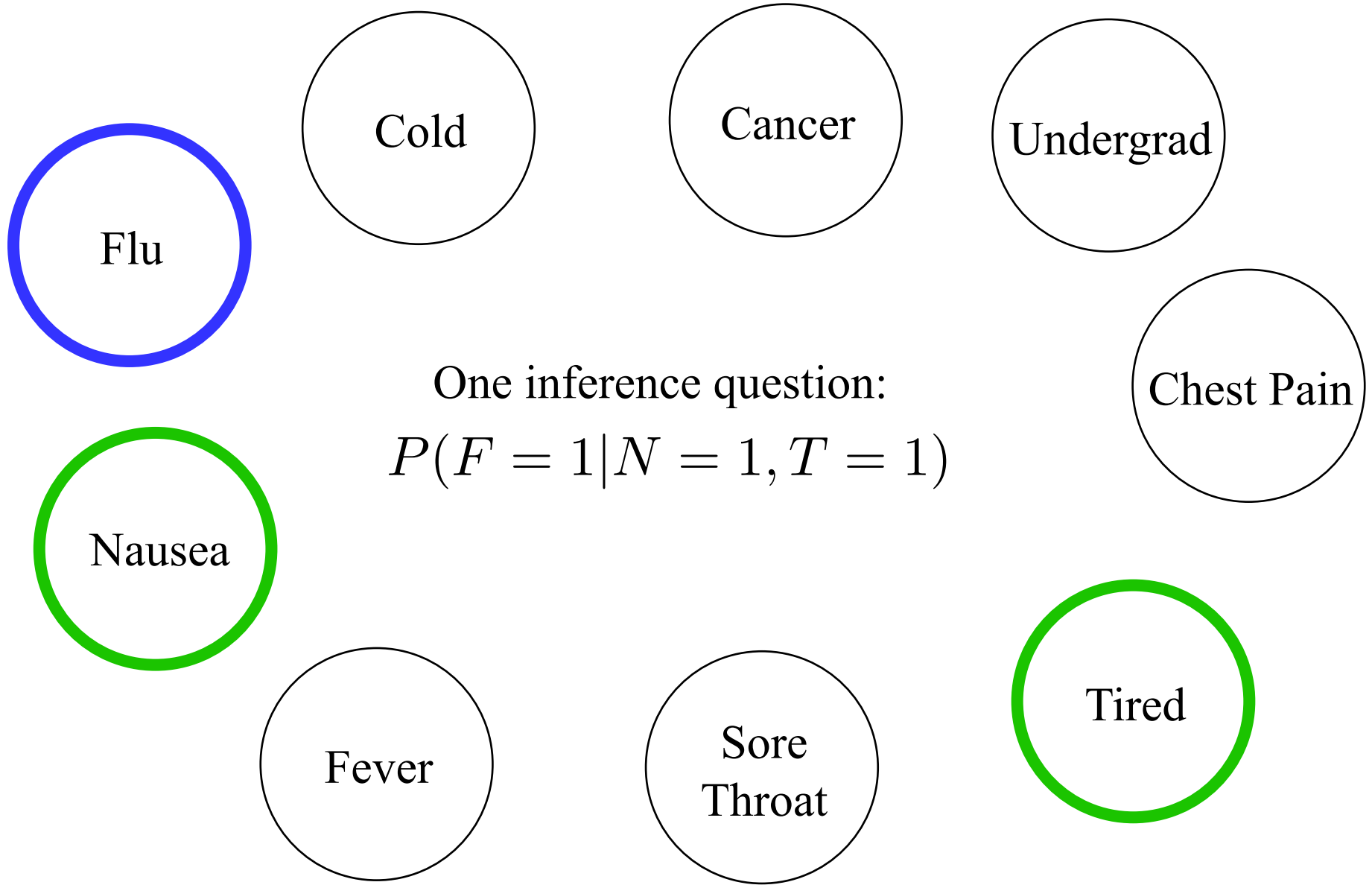
Continue >

Info

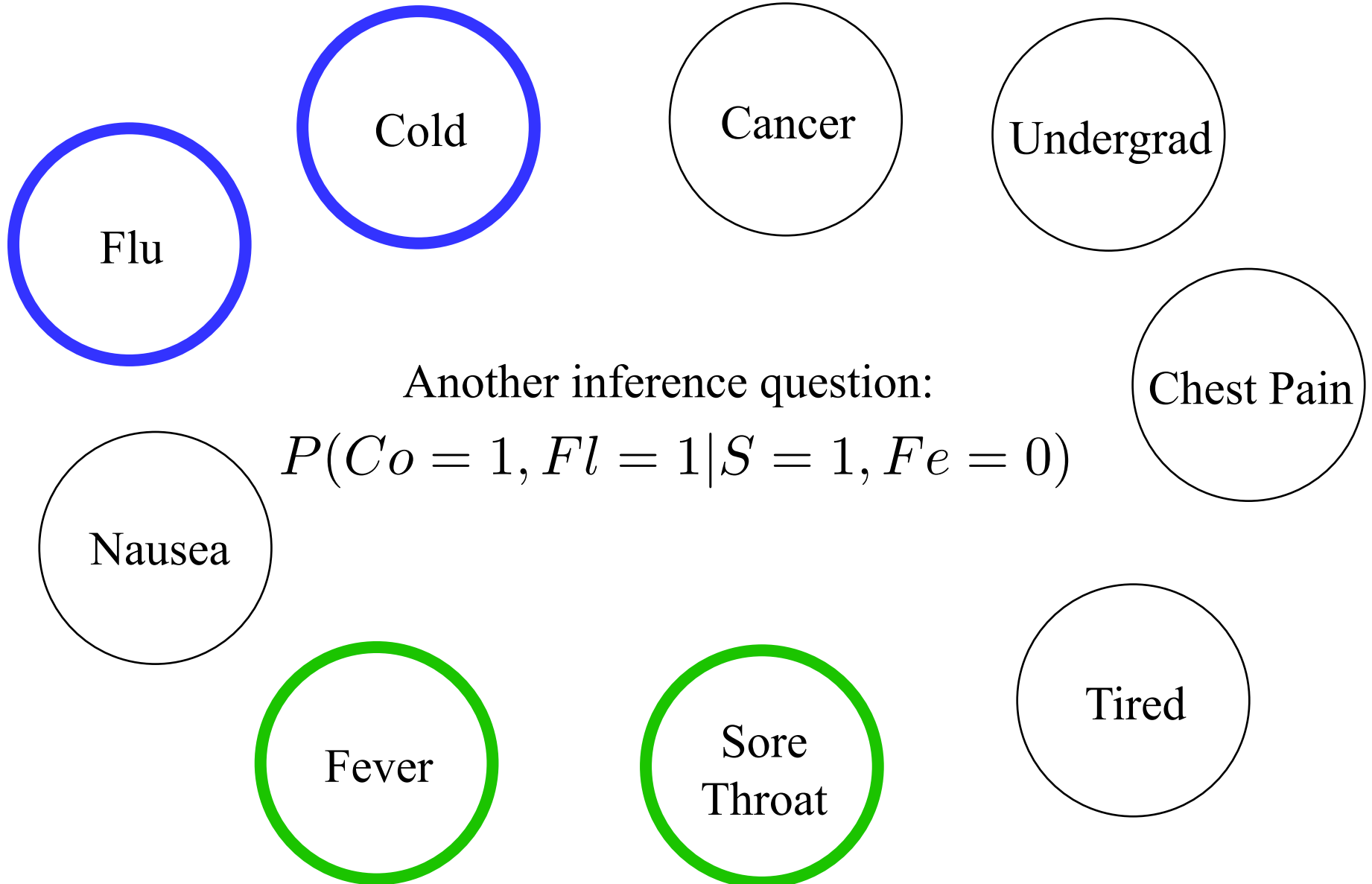
General “Inference”



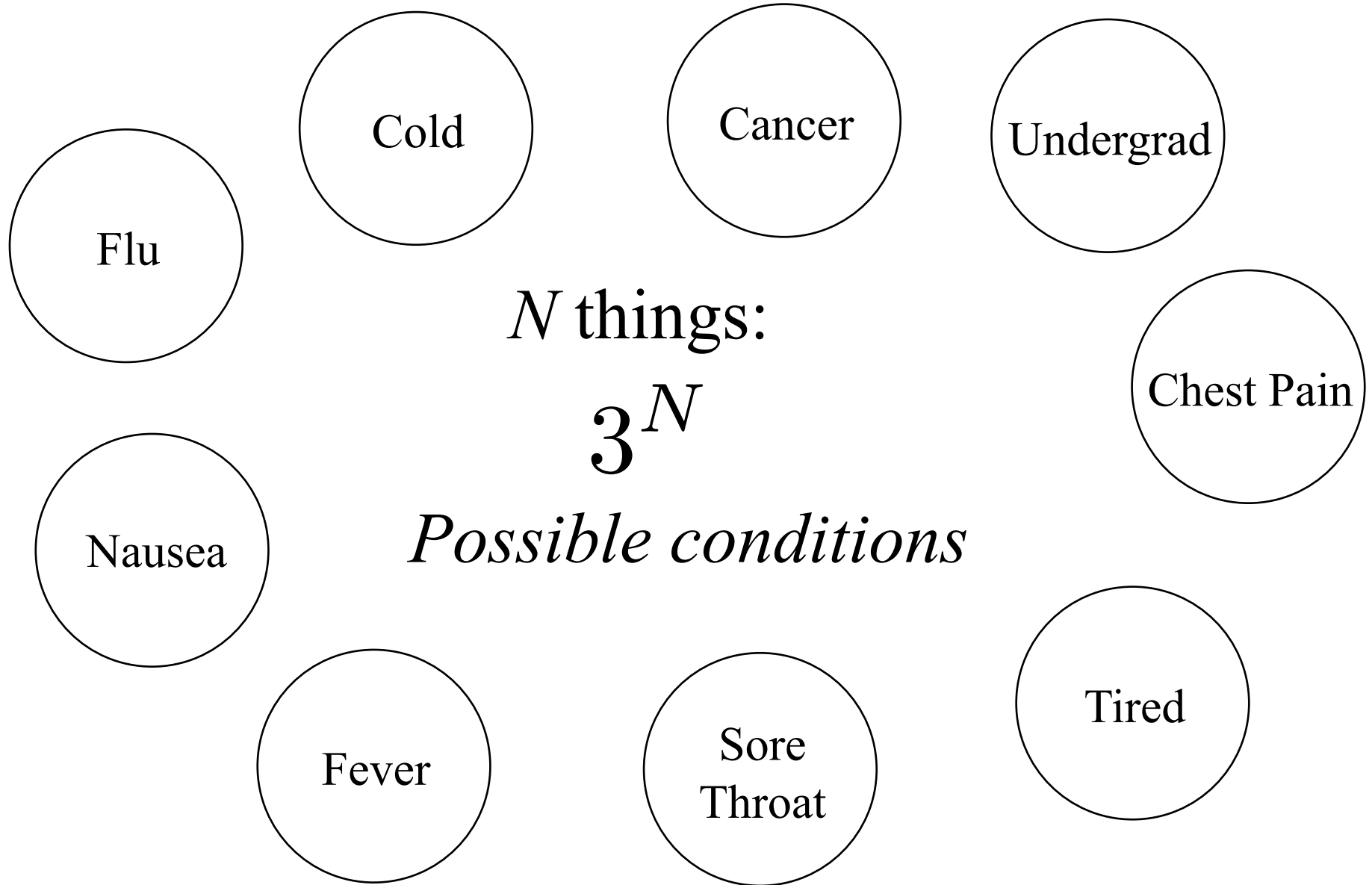
General “Inference”



General “Inference”



How Many Things Can You Condition On?



Simple WebMd



Flu



Undergrad



Fever



Tired

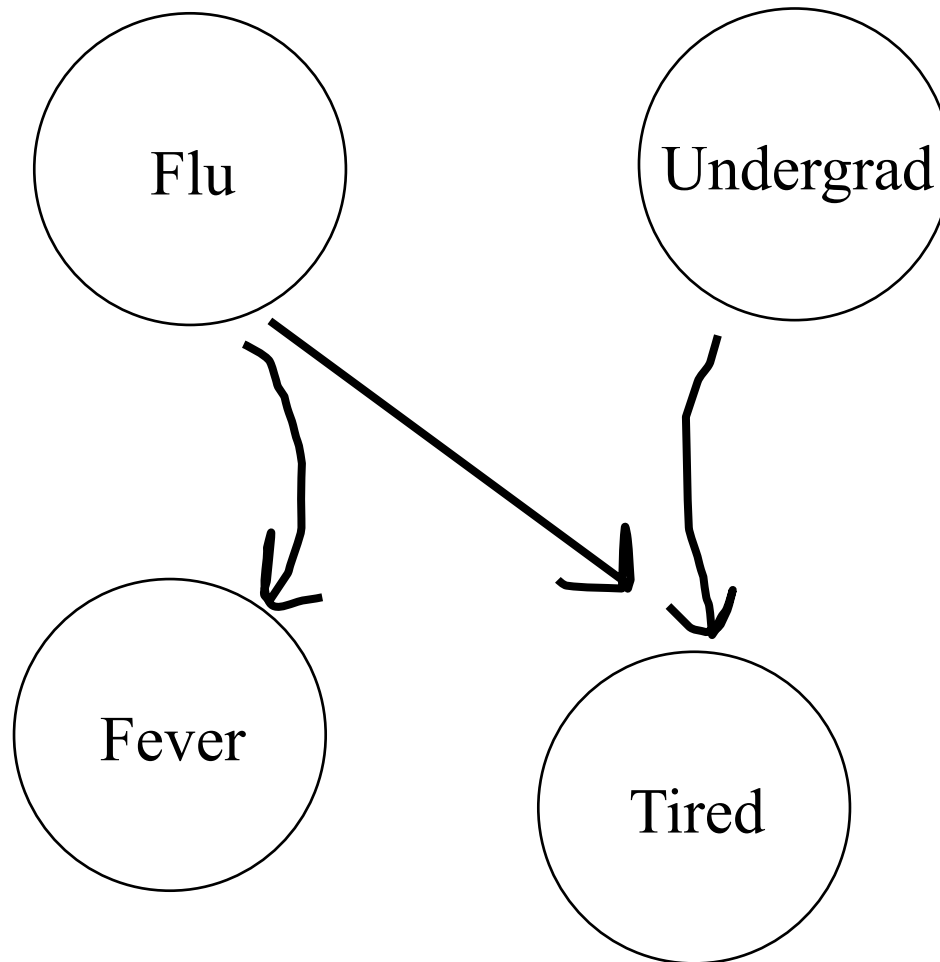


Naively specifying a joint is often impossible...



Probabilistic Model

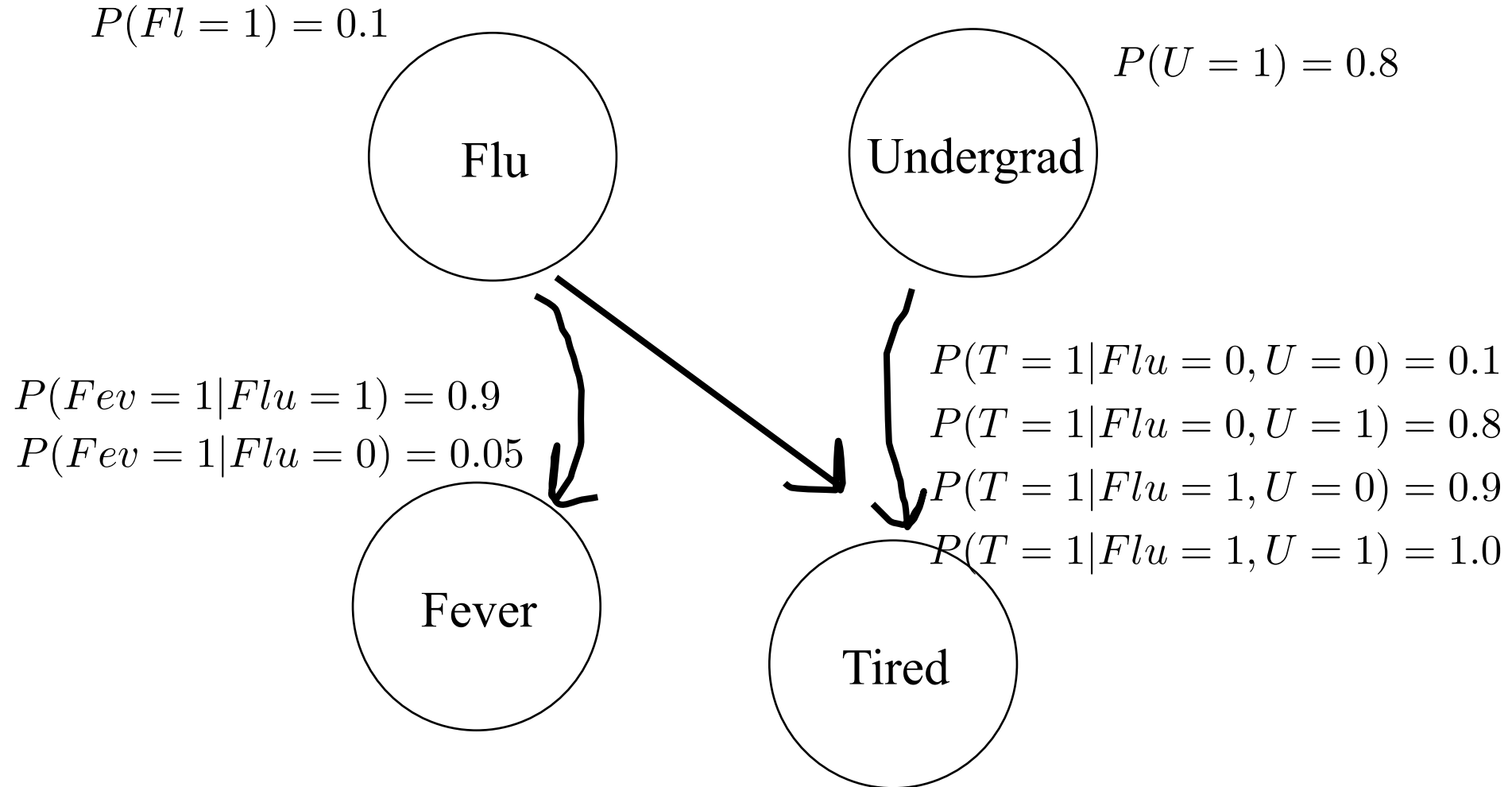
Describe the joint using causality!



$$P(Fl = a, Fe = b, U = c, T = d)?$$

Probabilistic Model

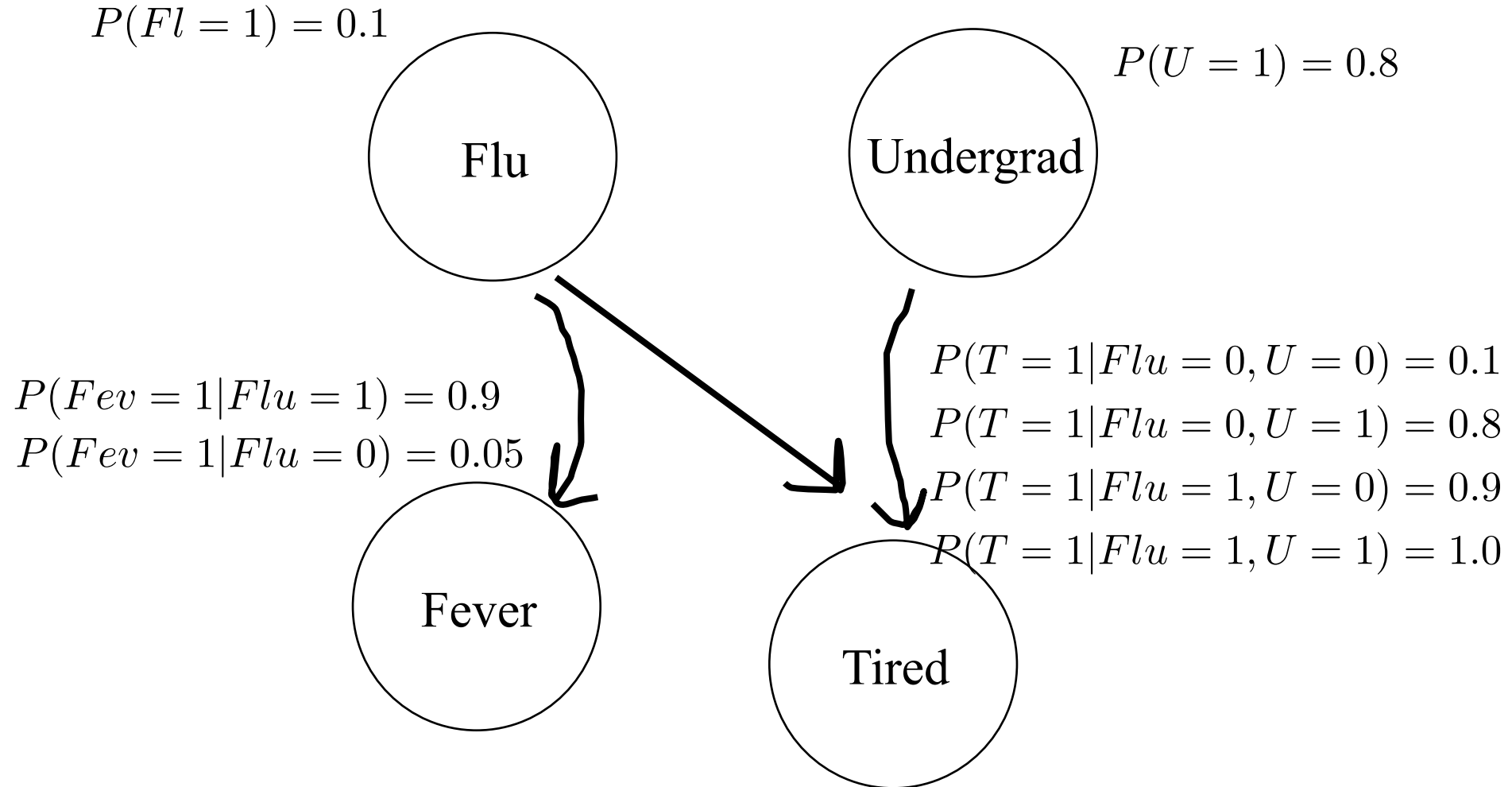
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$$P(Fl = a, Fe = b, U = c, T = d)?$$

Bayesian Network

Describe the joint using causality!



$$P(Fl = a, Fe = b, U = c, T = d)?$$

Bayesian Network:

If you know causality,



Make a network of assumed direct causality for your random vars.

You simply need to give:

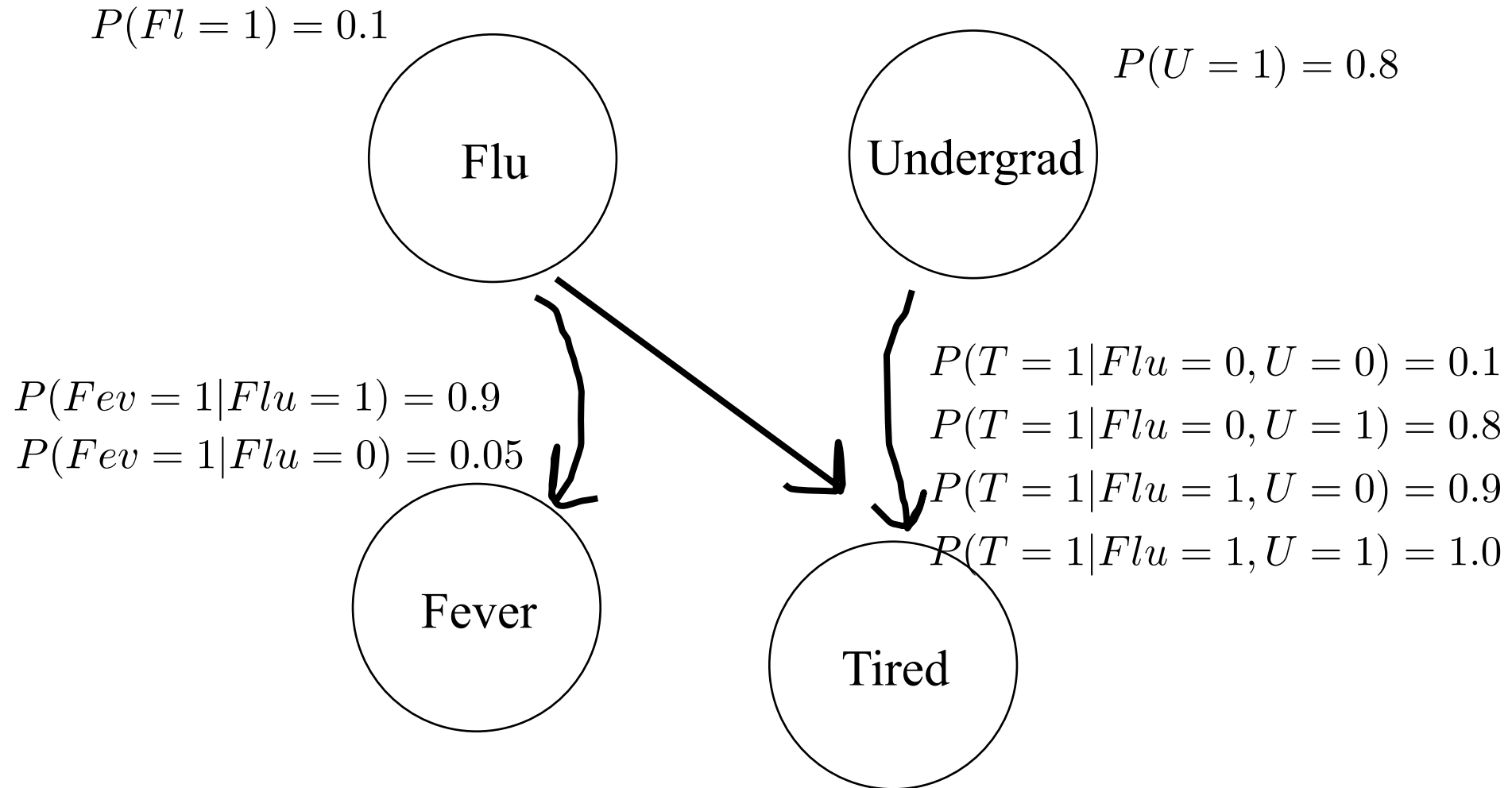
$P(\text{values} \mid \text{parents})$

for each random variable.

Prob can be a conditional probability table or an equation!



Probabilistic Model



Alg #0: Straight Math

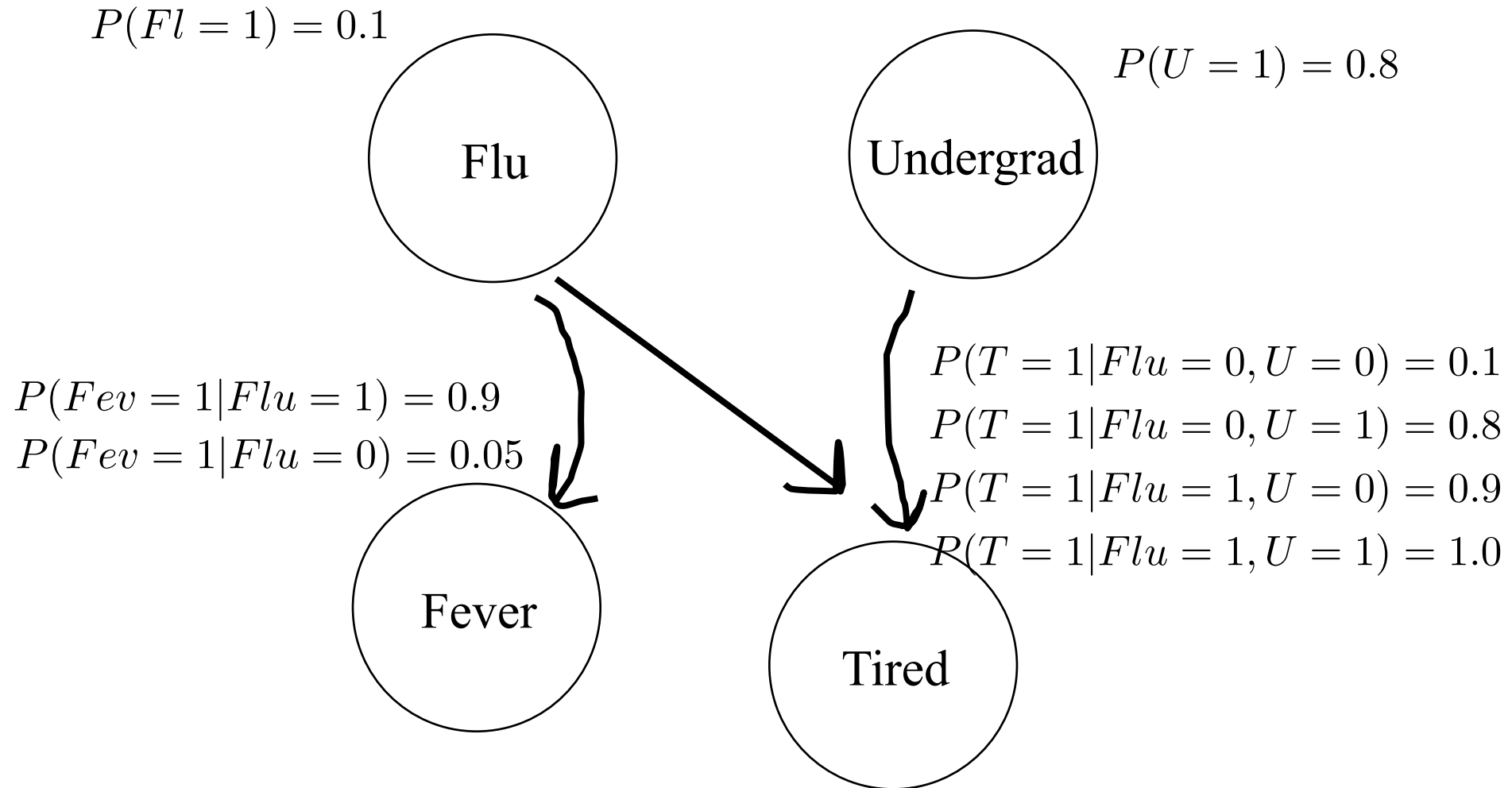
Too many possible **inference**
questions one could ask...

Alg #1: Joint Sampling

```
-
3  N_SAMPLES = 100000
4
5  # Program: Joint Sample
6  # -----
7  # we can answer any probability question
8  # with multivariate samples from the joint,
9  # where conditioned variables match
10 def main():
11     obs = getObservation()
12     print 'Observation = ', obs
13
14     samples = sampleATon()
15     prob = probFluGivenObs(samples, obs)
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ', prob
--
```

```
71 # Method: Sample A Ton
72 # -----
73 # chose N_SAMPLES with likelihood proportional
74 # to the joint distribution
75 def sampleATon():
76     samples = []
77     for i in range(N_SAMPLES):
78         sample = makeSample()
79         samples.append(sample)
80     return samples
```

Recall: Probabilistic Model



```
82 # Method: Make Sample
83 # -----
84 # chose a single sample from the joint distribut.
85 # based on the medical "Probabilistic Graphical I
86 def makeSample():
87     # prior on causal factors
88     flu = bern(0.1)
89     und = bern(0.8)
90
91     # choose fever based on flue
92     if flu == 1: fev = bern(0.9)
93     else:         fev = bern(0.05)
94
95     # choose tired based on (undergrade and flu)
96     if und == 1 and flu == 1:   tir = bern(1.0)
97     elif und == 1 and flu == 0: tir = bern(0.8)
98     elif und == 0 and flu == 1: tir = bern(0.9)
99     else:                       tir = bern(0.1)
100
101     # a sample from the joint has an
102     # assignment to *all* random variables
103     return [flu, und, fev, tir]
```

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14     samples = sampleATo  
15     prob = probFluGiven  
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ',  
--
```

```
webMd -- -bash -- 30x20  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[1, 1, 1, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 0]  
[0, 1, 0, 0]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 0, 0, 0]  
[0, 0, 0, 0]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
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[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 0, 0, 0]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[0, 1, 0, 1]  
[1, 1, 0, 1]
```

Alg #1: Joint Sampling

```
-
3  N_SAMPLES = 100000
4
5  # Program: Joint Sample
6  # -----
7  # we can answer any probability question
8  # with multivariate samples from the joint,
9  # where conditioned variables match
10 def main():
11     obs = getObservation()
12     print 'Observation = ', obs
13
14     samples = sampleATon()
15     prob = probFluGivenObs(samples, obs)
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ', prob
--
```

```
25 # Method: Probability of Flu Given Observation
26 # -----
27 # Calculate the probability of flu given many
28 # samples from the joint distribution and a set
29 # of observations to condition on.
30 def probFluGivenObs(samples, obs):
31     # reject all samples which don't align
32     # with condition
33     keepSamples = []
34     for sample in samples:
35         if checkObsMatch(sample, obs):
36             keepSamples.append(sample)
37
38     # from remaining, simply count...
39     fluCount = 0
40     for sample in keepSamples:
41         [flu, und, fev, tir] = sample
42         if flu == 1:
43             fluCount += 1
44
45     # counting can be so sweet...
46     return float(fluCount) / len(keepSamples)
```

```
25 # Method: Probability of Flu Given Observation
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27 # Calculate the probability of flu given many
28 # samples from the joint distribution and a set
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Alg #1: Joint Sampling

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13
14     samples = sampleATo
15     prob = probFluGiven
16     print 'Pr(Flu) = ',
--
```

```
webMd -- -bash -- 30x20
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[1, 1, 0, 1]
Pr(Flu) = 0.141503173687
>
```

Lets try it!

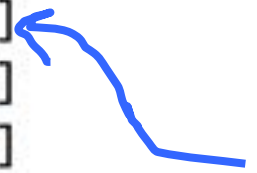
BACK 
TO THE **CODE**

The Magic School Bus™




```
webMd -- -bash -- 39x20
[0, 1, 1, 0]
[1, 0, 1, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 1, 0]
[1, 1, 1, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 1, 0, 1]
[0, 1, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 0]
[0, 0, 0, 1]
Observation = [None, None, None, None]
Pr(Flu | Obs) = 0.10164
>
```

If you can sample enough from the joint distribution, you can answer any probability question



Each one of these is one joint sample:
[Flu, Undergrad, Fever, Tired]



Alg #1: Joint Sampling

With enough samples:

- Probability estimates will be correct
- Conditional probability estimates will be correct
- Expectation estimations will be correct

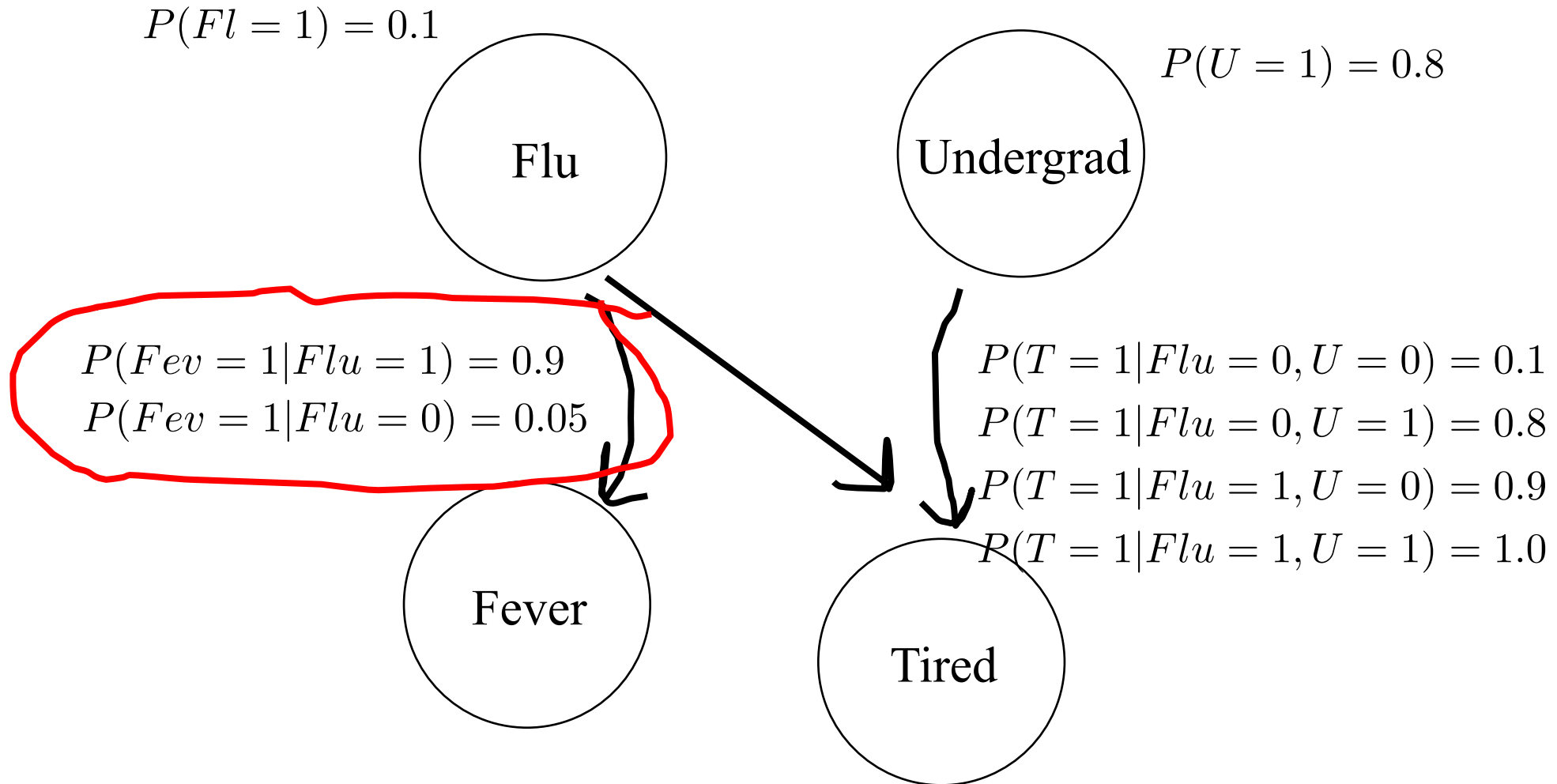
Because your samples are a representation of the joint distribution...



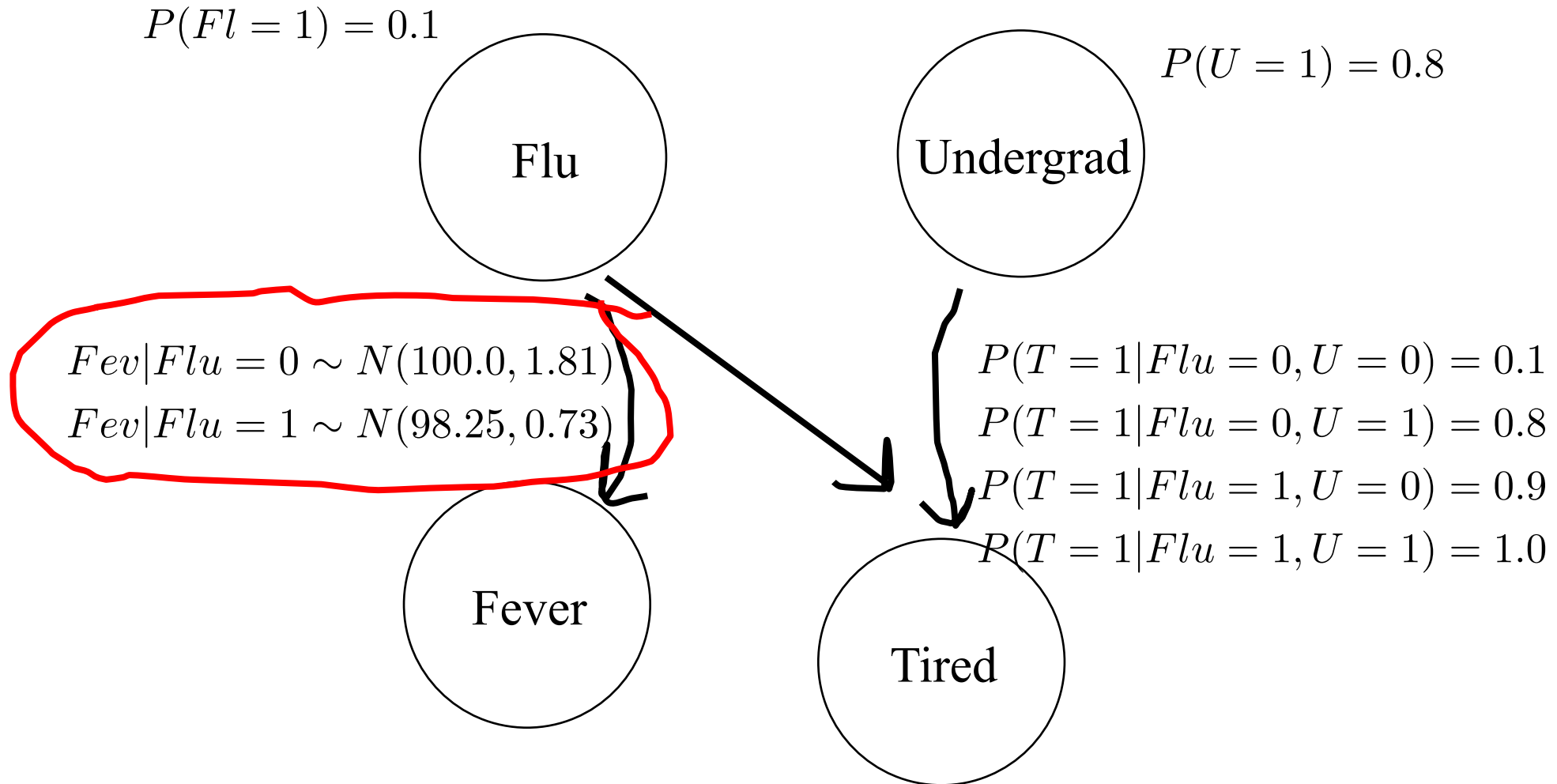
What's the matter with
joint sampling?



Probabilistic Model



Probabilistic Model



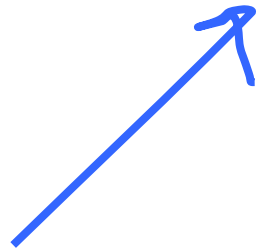
The Magic School Bus™



Markov Chain



MCMC



Monte Carlo



This algorithm is not tested. I just want
to have a little cheeky peek into the
future...



Alg #2: MCMC

```
webid --bash -- 10x20
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[0, 1, 101.0, 0]
[0, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 0]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 0, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
[1, 1, 101.0, 1]
Pr(Flu) = 0.9773
>
```

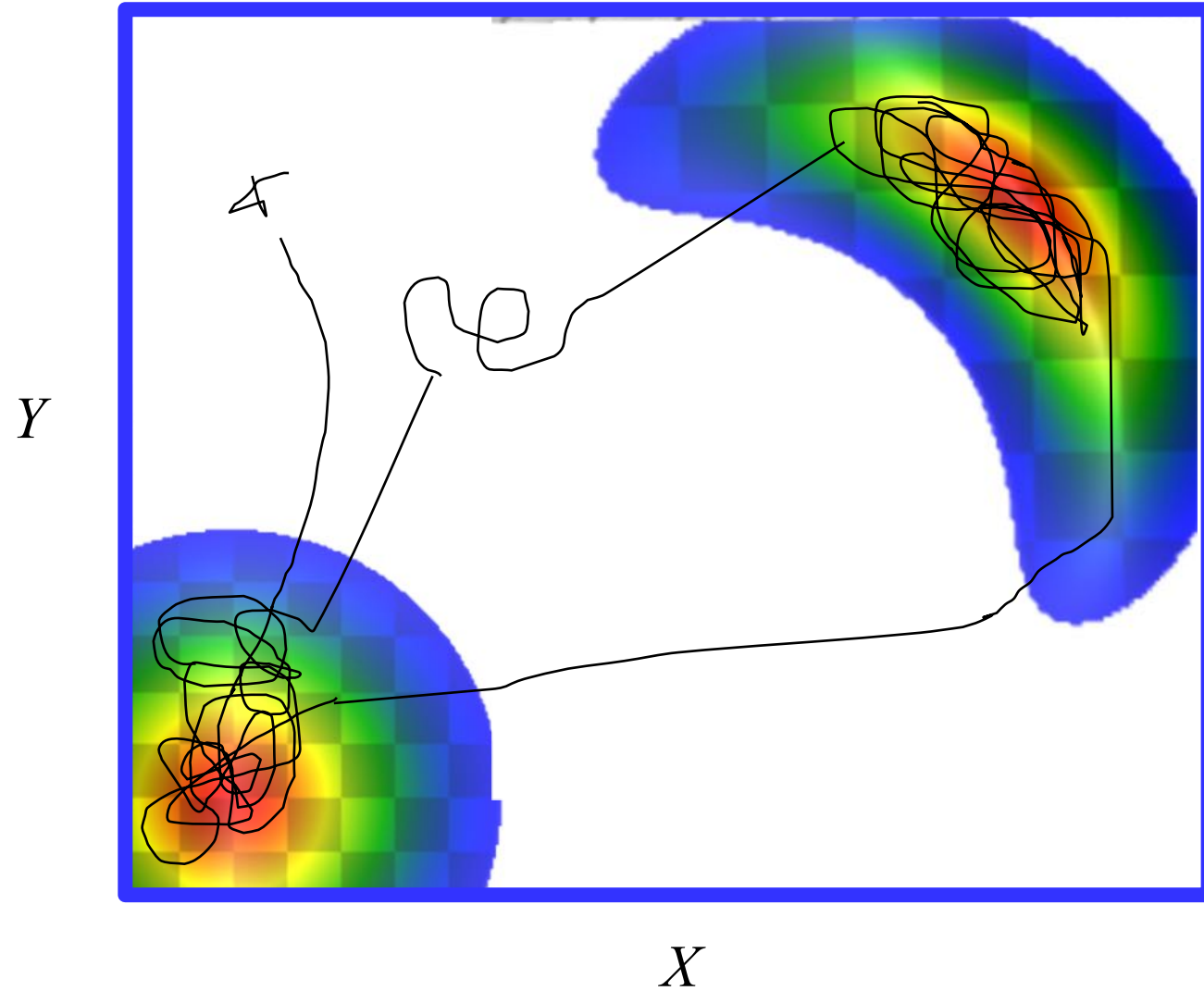
MCMC is a way to sample with conditioned variables fixed

Each one of these is one posterior sample:

[Flu, Undergrad, Fever, Tired]



Alg #2: MCMC



Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = []

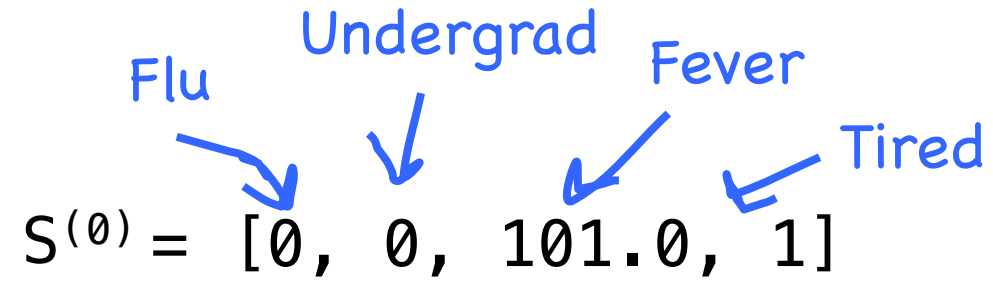
Initial Sample = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]

A diagram illustrating the mapping of labels to the initial sample array. Four blue arrows point from labels above to elements in the array: 'Flu' points to the first element '0', 'Undergrad' points to the second element '0', 'Fever' points to the third element '101.0', and 'Tired' points to the fourth element '1'.

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = []

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(0)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$



Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(0)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$



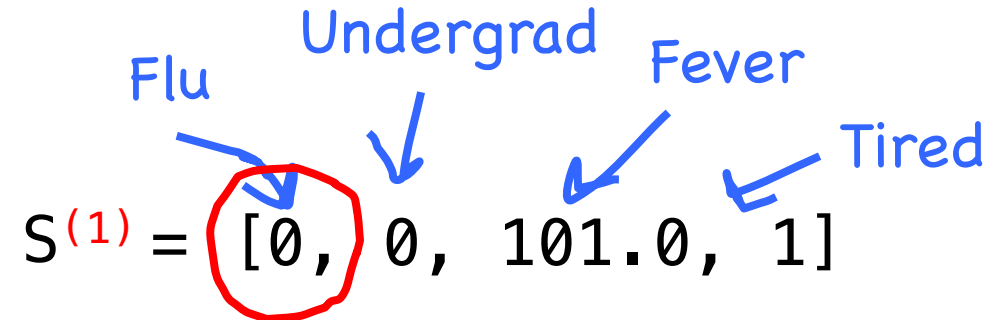
From S_t make S_{t+1}

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

$$S^{(1)} = [0, 0, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})$$

$$= P(Flu = 1 | Und = 0, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1)$$

$$= 0.21$$

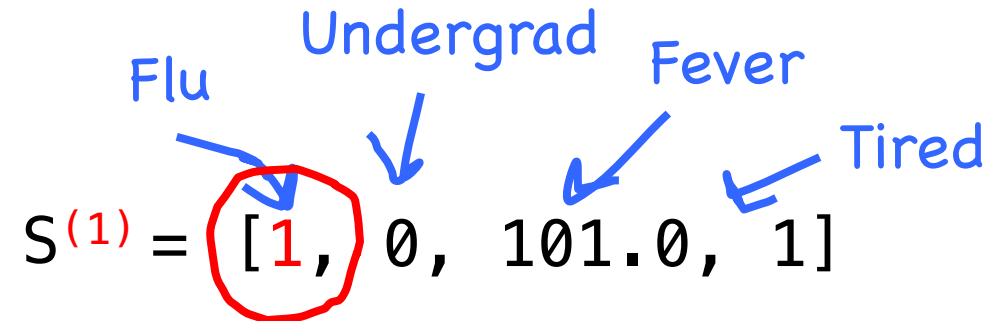
$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

$$S^{(1)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})$$

$$= P(Flu = 1 | Und = 0, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1)$$

$$= 0.21$$

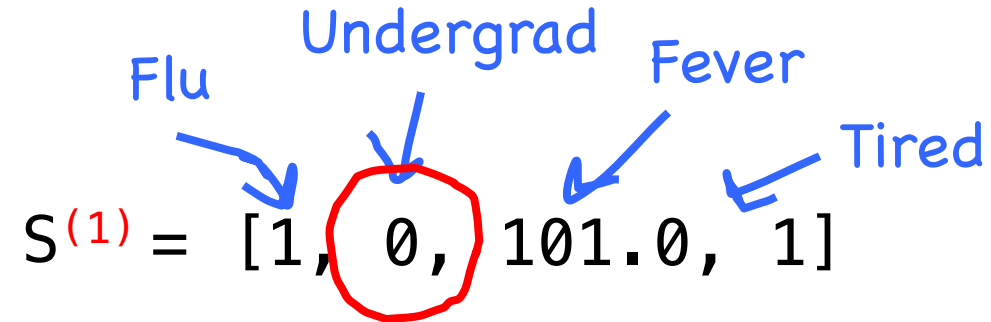
$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

$$S^{(1)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Und = 1 | \text{All others})$$

$$= P(Und = 1 | Flu = 1, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1)$$

$$= 0.91$$

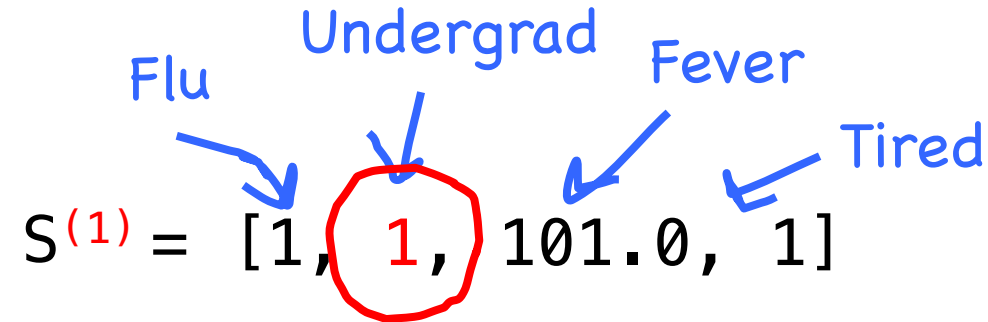
$$Und_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Und = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

$$S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Und = 1 | \text{All others})$$

$$= P(Und = 1 | Flu = 1, Fev = 98.3, Tir = 1)$$

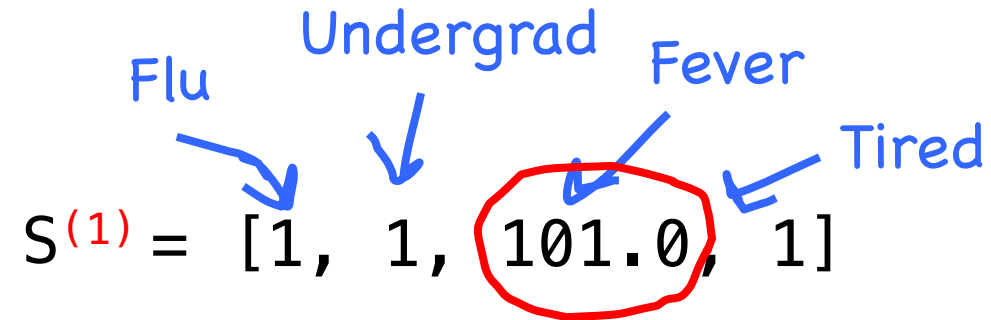
$$= 0.91$$

$$Und_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Und = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$

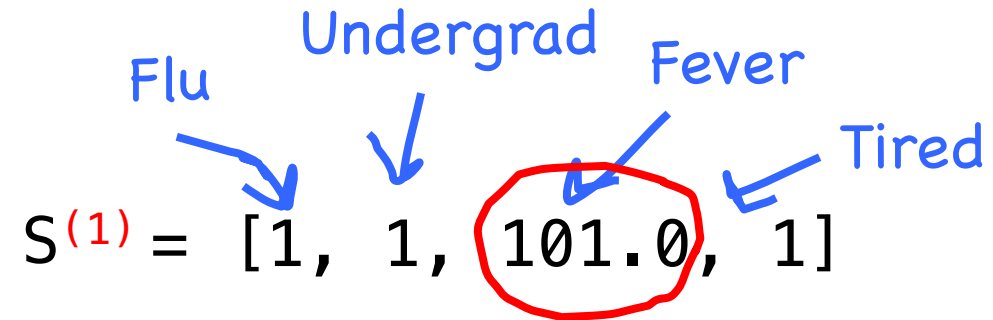


Let's say you are conditioning on fever being 101.0...
then don't change that value

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

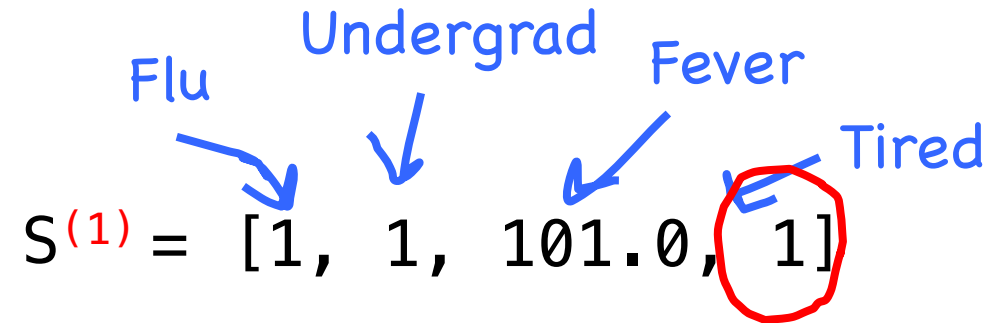
Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$



Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$



Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

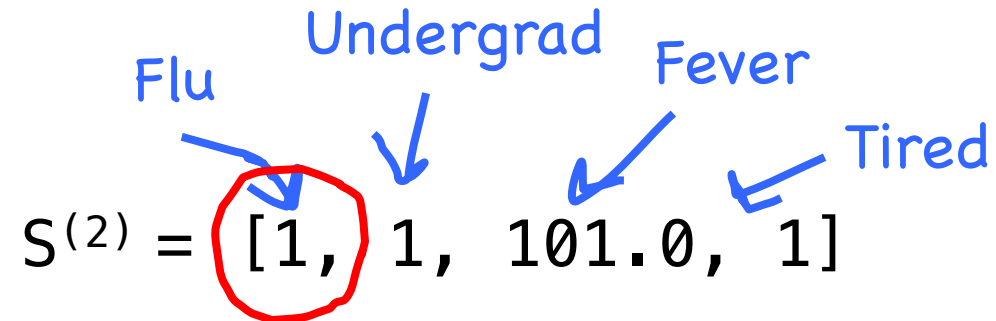
Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(1)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

$$S^{(2)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})$$

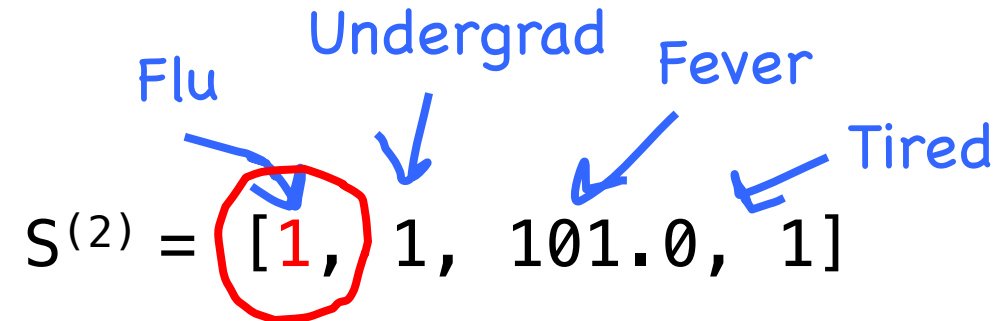
$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

$$S^{(2)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired



$$P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})$$

$$Flu_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

$S^{(2)} = [1, 1, 101.0, 1]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired

$P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others})$

$Flu_1 = \text{Sample} \left[P(Flu = 1 | \text{All others}) \right]$

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

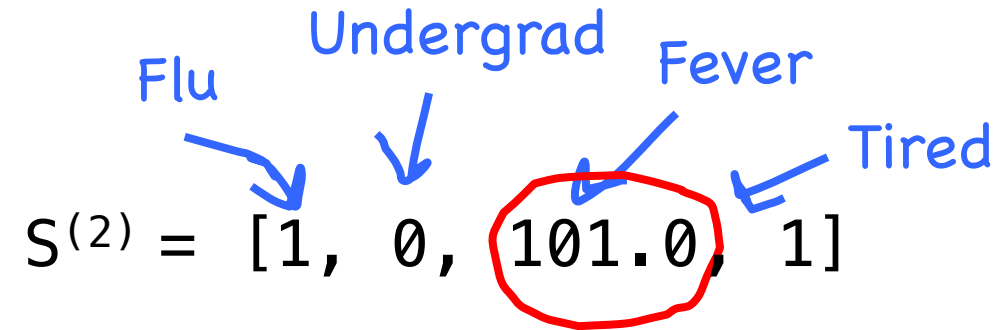
$S^{(2)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired

Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

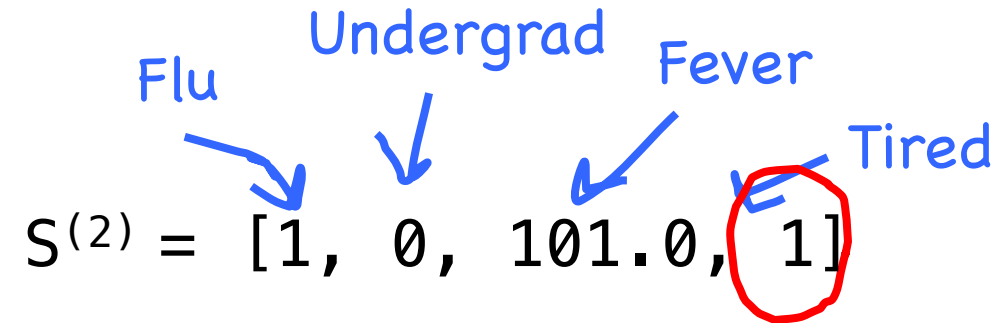
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Alg #2: MCMC

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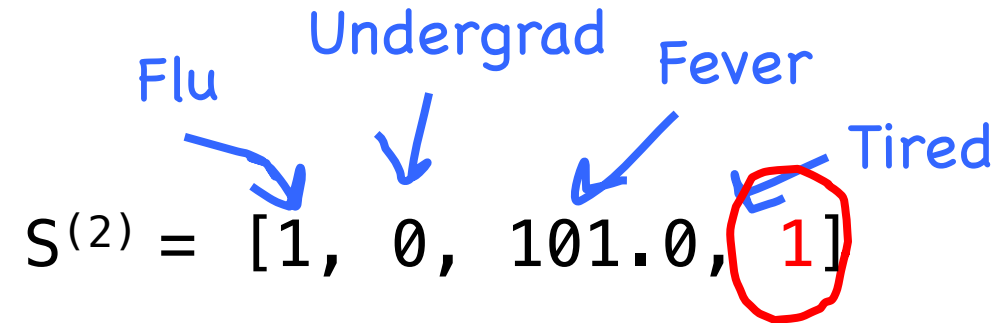
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Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}]$

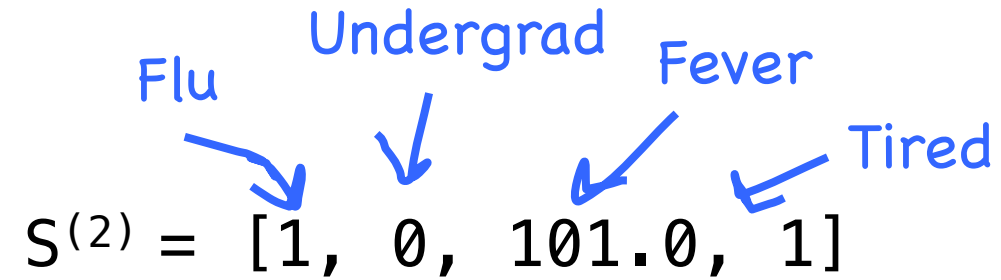
Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(2)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$



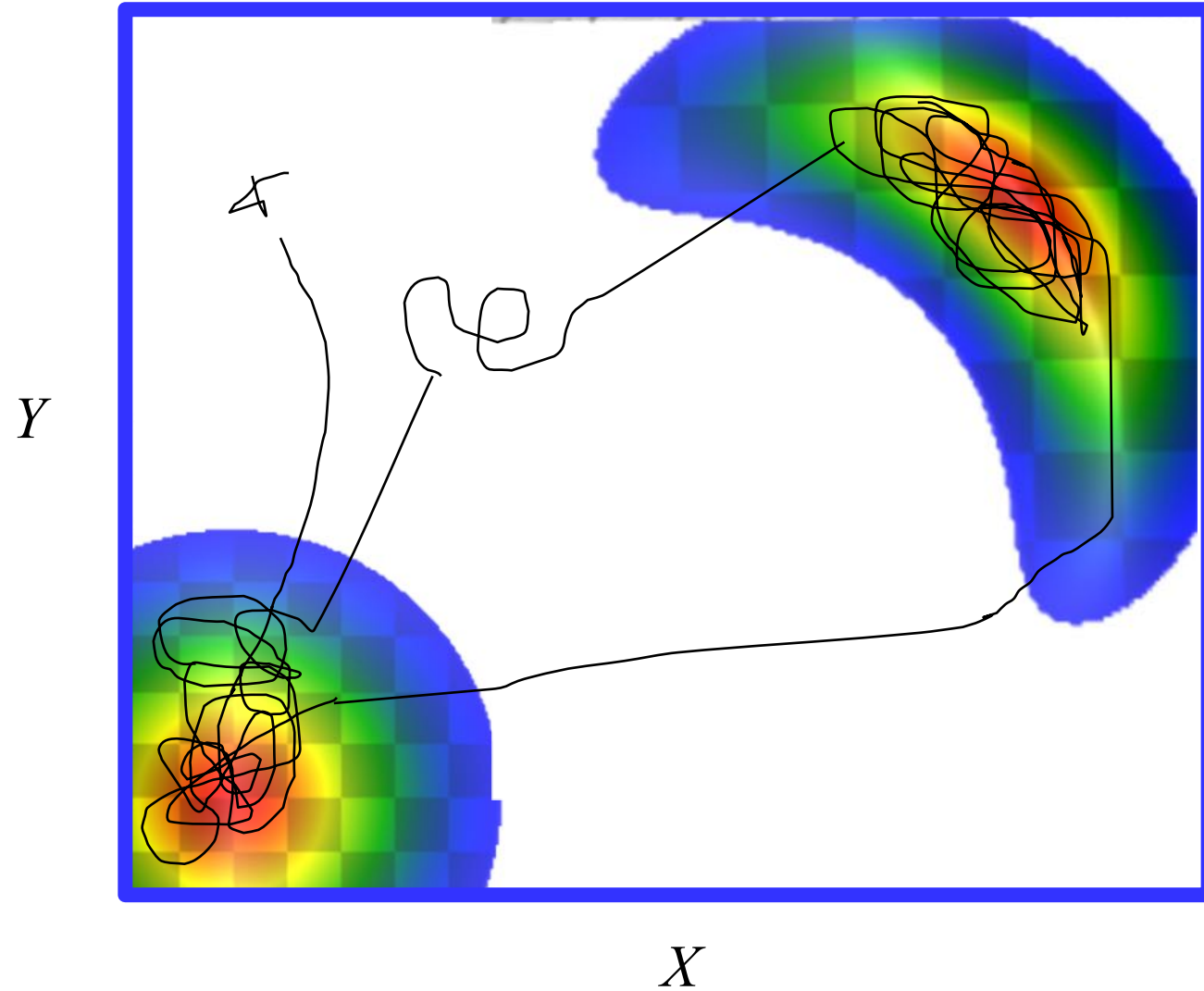
Alg #2: MCMC

All Samples = $[S^{(0)}, S^{(1)}, S^{(2)}]$

Flu Undergrad Fever Tired
 $S^{(2)} = [1, 0, 101.0, 1]$



Alg #2: MCMC



BAE's Theorem?

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



$P(F = 1 \mid \text{all other rvs})$

Know: $P(\text{symptom} \mid \text{flu}, \text{undergrad})$ $P(\text{flu})$ $P(\text{undergrad})$

Flu is independent of undergrad

Tired and fever are conditionally independent given flu, undergrad

$$\begin{aligned} &P(F = 1 \mid \text{symptoms}, U = u) \\ &= \frac{P(\text{symptoms} \mid F = 1, U = u)P(F = 1 \mid U = u)}{P(\text{symptoms} \mid U = u)} \\ &\propto P(\text{symptoms} \mid F = 1, U = u)P(F = 1 \mid U = u) \\ &\propto P(F = 1)P(\text{symptoms} \mid F = 1, U = u) \\ &\propto P(F = 1) \prod_i P(\text{symptom}_i \mid F = 1, U = u) \end{aligned}$$

$$P(F = 1 | \text{all other rvs}) \propto P(F = 1) \prod_i P(\text{symptom}_i | F = 1, U = u)$$

```
120 def sampleFlu(sample):
121     f1 = getFluPr1(sample)
122     f0 = getFluPr0(sample)
123     p1 = f1 / (f1 + f0)
124     return bern(p1)
125
126 def getFluPr0(sample):
127     [_ , und, fev, tir] = sample
128     pFlu0 = 0.9
129     pFev = getPrFeverX(fev, flu=0)
130     pTir = getPrTiredX(tir, und=und, flu=0)
131     return pFlu0 * pFev * pTir
132
133 def getFluPr1(sample):
134     [_ , und, fev, tir] = sample
135     pFlu1 = 0.1
136     pFev = getPrFeverX(fev, flu=1)
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138     return pFlu1 * pFev * pTir
```

See you soon!

Summary

General Inference Summary



- **Straight Math** is fast, but can be prohibitively hard for complex models (see hw).
- **Joint Sampling** is really easy to program but fails for continuous variables (and when what you are conditioning on is rare)
- **MCMC** works well when conditioning on rare events, but is *much* harder to code / derive.
- All sampling is **slow**.