



General Inference

CS109, Stanford University

Announcements

- (1) Midterm Exam is Tuesday 2/10 7-9pm.**
- (2) If you have an academic conflict with the exam or if you have OAE accommodations, fill out the form on Ed by end of class on Weds (form will be released very soon).
- (3) Location info will be announced later this week. We are in the AIWG proctoring pilot so we will assign you rooms and actual seats in the room as well.
- (4) You may bring 3 pieces of paper – 6 sides if you count front and back – of notes. Can be typed, handwritten, pictures, etc.
- (5) Leave phones at home if possible! If not – we will collect them before exam starts.
- (6) Review session on Friday at 4:30pm (location TBD). No lecture on Monday 2/9

Why You Need a Model

*Web*MD®


Why You Need a Model

WebMD Symptom Checker WITH BODY MAP

INFO SYMPTOMS QUESTIONS CONDITIONS DETAILS TREATMENT

What are your symptoms?

Type your main symptom here



↺

≡

CVIN

Multiple Random Variables. Start of Digital Revolution

Conditions that match your symptoms

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS [i](#)

Migraine Headache (Adult)



STRONG match



Tension Headache



Moderate match



Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV)



Fair match



Gender Female Age 26 [Edit](#)

My Symptoms [Edit](#)

dizziness , one sided headache



Start Over

Surprisingly Simple (if you can code)

Code



Probability

Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people actually define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

But first some review.

Did you know today is Groundhog's day?

Sees shadow = 6 more weeks of winter.

Doesn't see shadow = early spring.

Based on historical data:

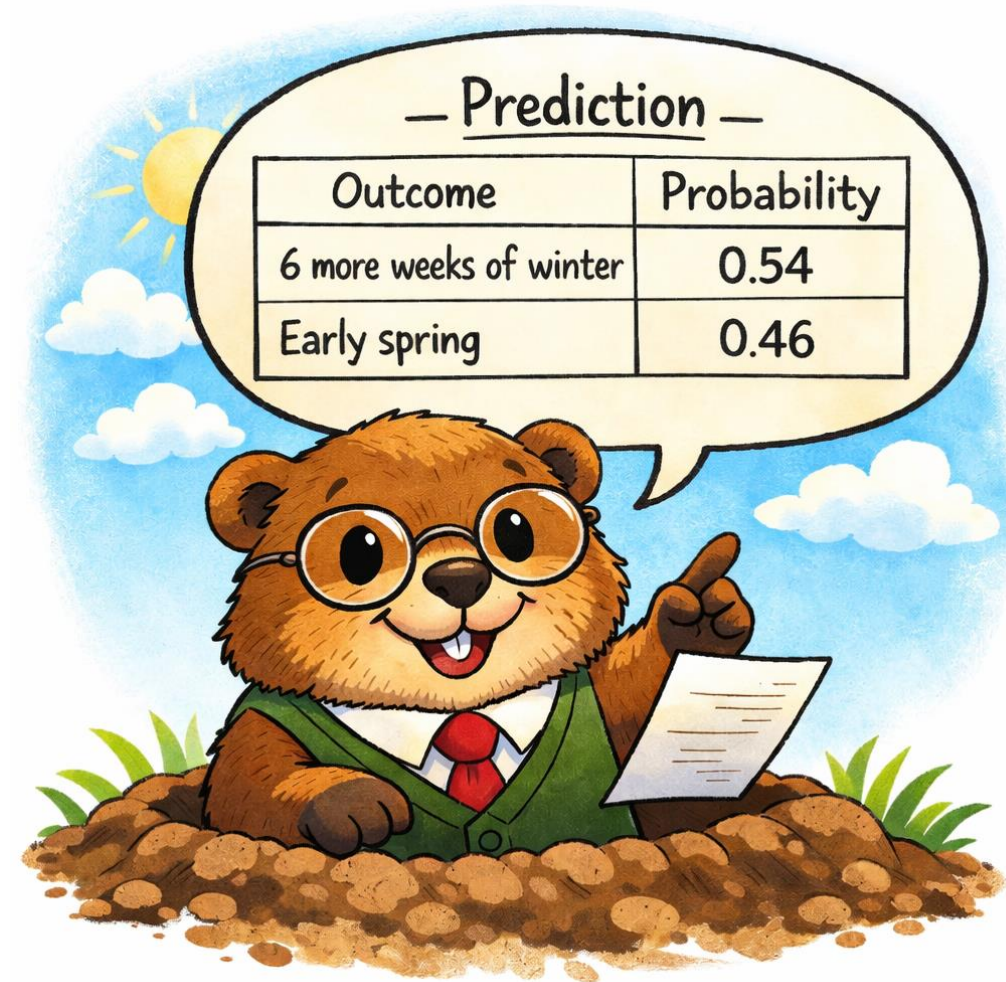
- When the groundhog sees shadow, 70% chance of 6 more weeks of winter.
- When the groundhog doesn't see shadow, 40% chance of 6 more weeks of winter.
- Before we observe the groundhog, we think it is equally likely to be an early spring or 6 more weeks of winter.



Let W = 6 more weeks of winter, and S = sees shadow.

$$P(W \mid S) = \frac{P(S \mid W)P(W)}{P(S \mid W)P(W) + P(S \mid W^c)P(W^c)}$$

$$= \frac{0.7 \cdot 0.5}{0.7 \cdot 0.5 + 0.6 \cdot 0.5} = \frac{0.35}{0.65} \approx 0.54$$



At this point you know inference with
two random variables

Today: Five New Real + Exciting Problems

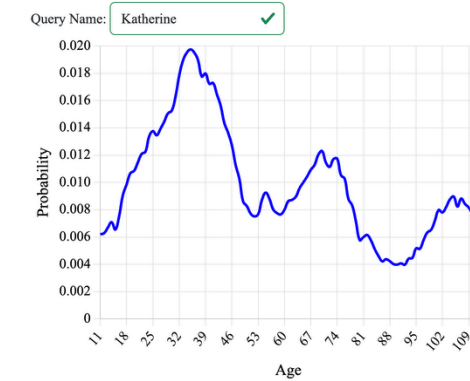
Age from C14



Updated Delivery Prob



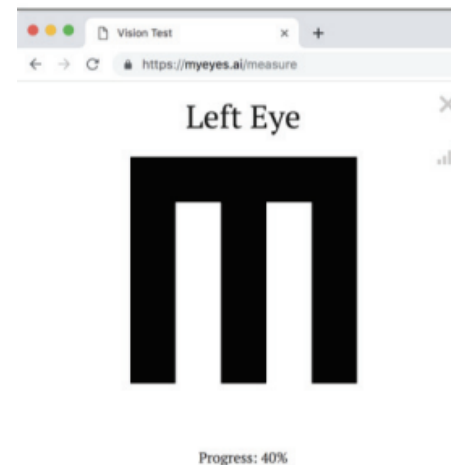
Age from Name



Hidden Chambers



Stanford Eye Test



Updating Lidar Belief



Today: Five New Real + Exciting Problems

Simple Joint

Interesting Likelihood

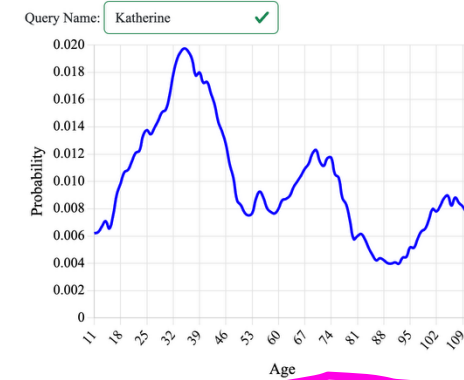
Age from C14



Updated Delivery Prob



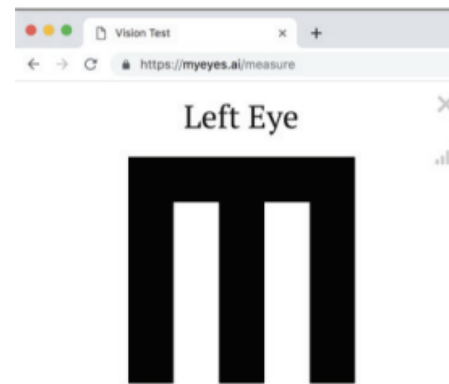
Age from Name



Hidden Chambers



Stanford Eye Test



Repeat Observations

Updating Lidar Belief



Continuous

Updating Lidar Belief

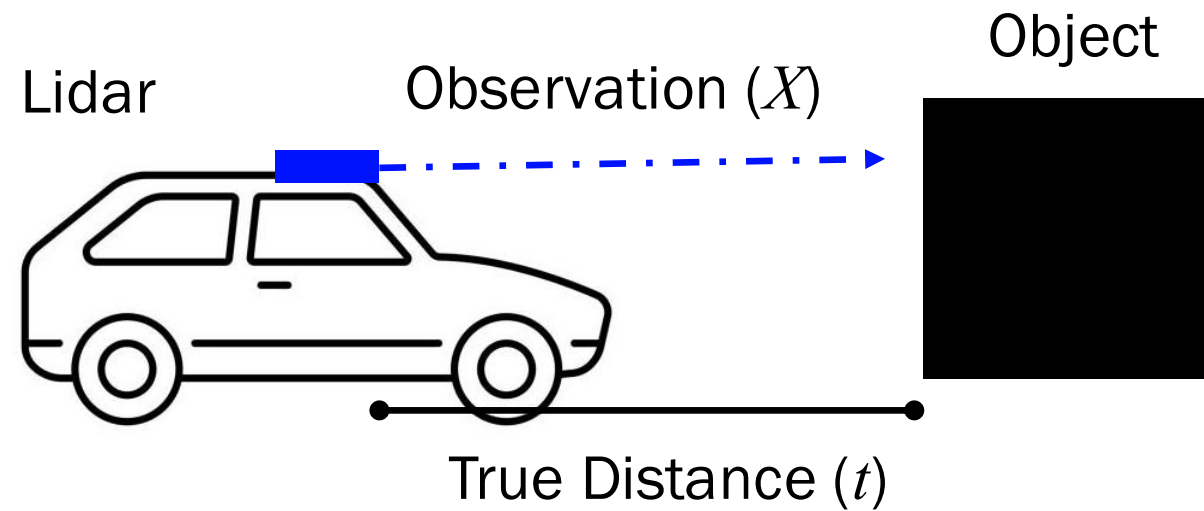
Your prior belief in true distance

$$T \sim N(\mu = 1, \sigma^2 = 3)$$

Your sensor has uncertainty

$$X \sim N(\mu = t, \sigma^2 = 1.5)$$

Observe: $X = 4$



$$f(T = t | X = 4) \propto f(X = 4 | T = t) \cdot f(T = t)$$

$$\propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \cdot 3}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(4 - t)^2}{3}\right] \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \cdot 1.5}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(t - 1)^2}{1.5}\right]$$

$$\propto \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(4 - t)^2}{3} + \frac{(t - 1)^2}{1.5}\right)\right]$$

$$\propto \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} (t^2 - 6t)\right]$$

$$\propto \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} (t - 3)^2\right]$$

$$\sim N(\mu = 3, \sigma^2 = 1)$$

Optional
but neat

Pro tip: keep the -1/2 factored out

Bayes theorem

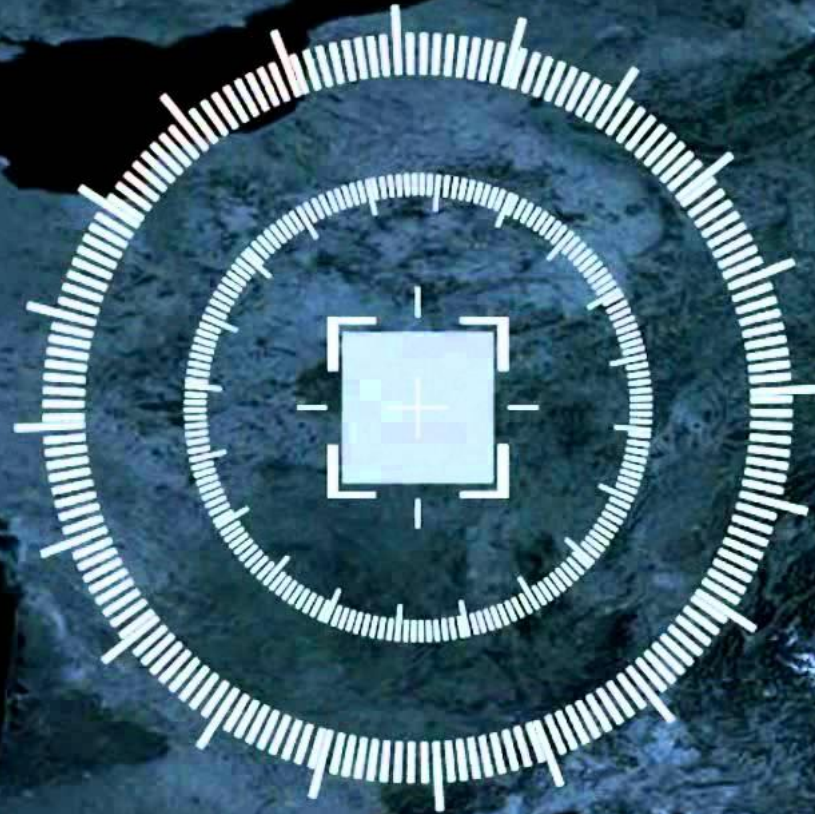
Plug in normal PDF

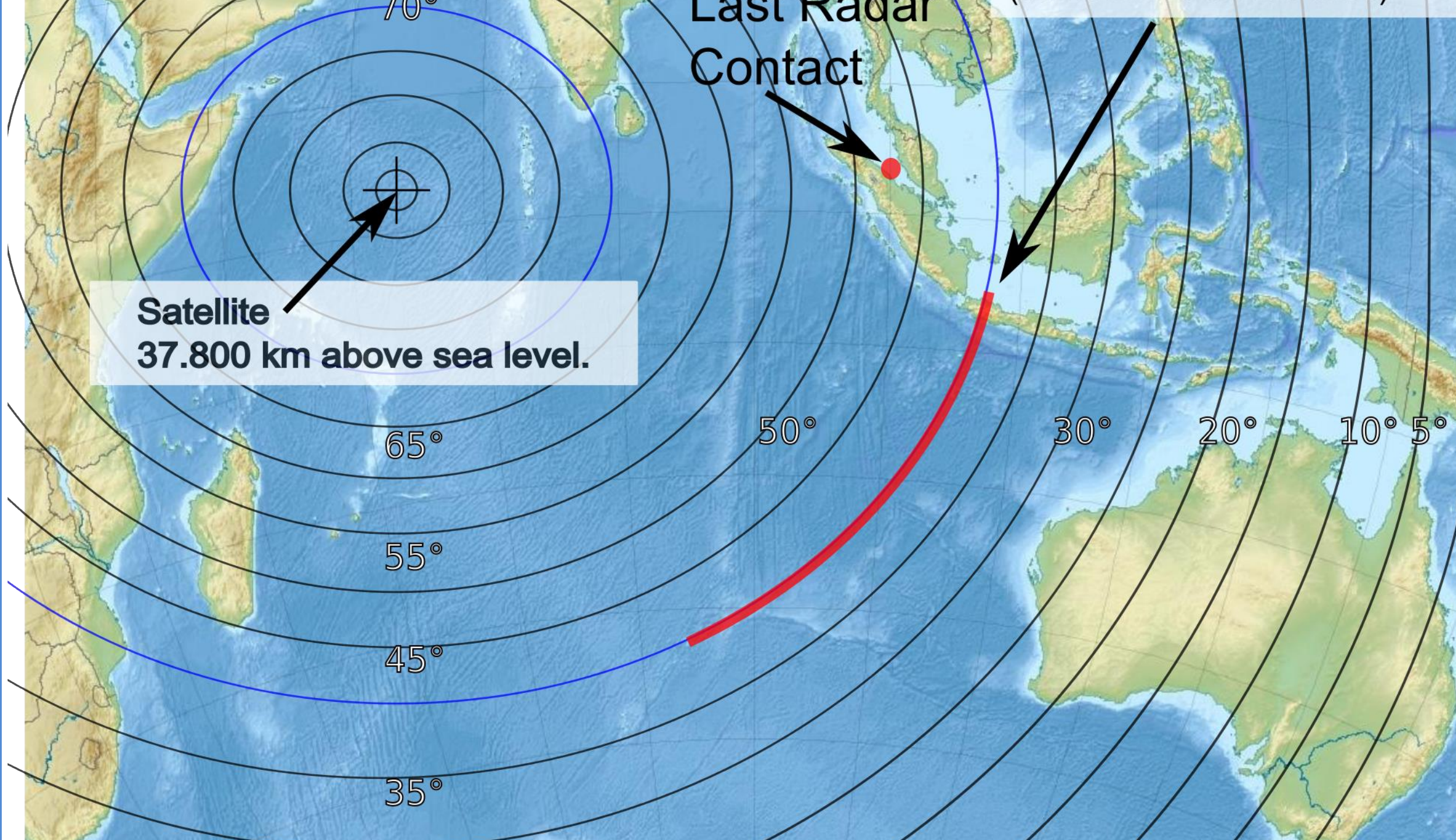
Drop constants +
Combine exponents

After simplifying

Complete the square

Tracking in 2D Space?





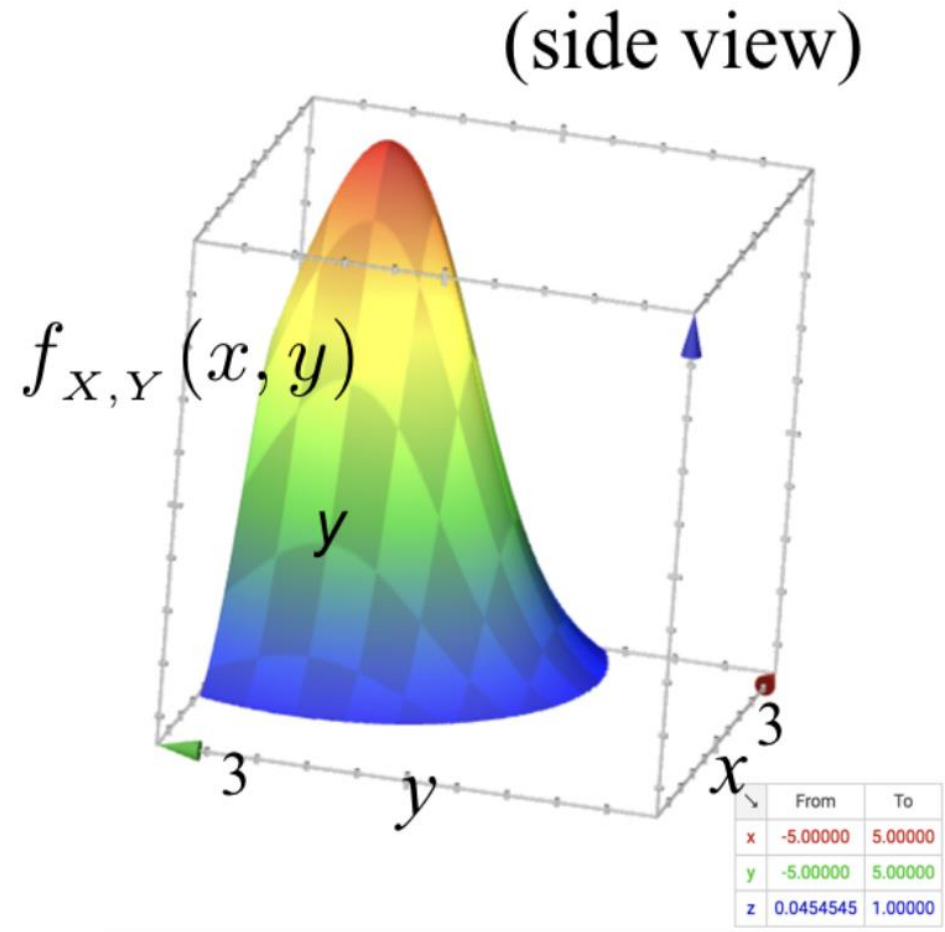
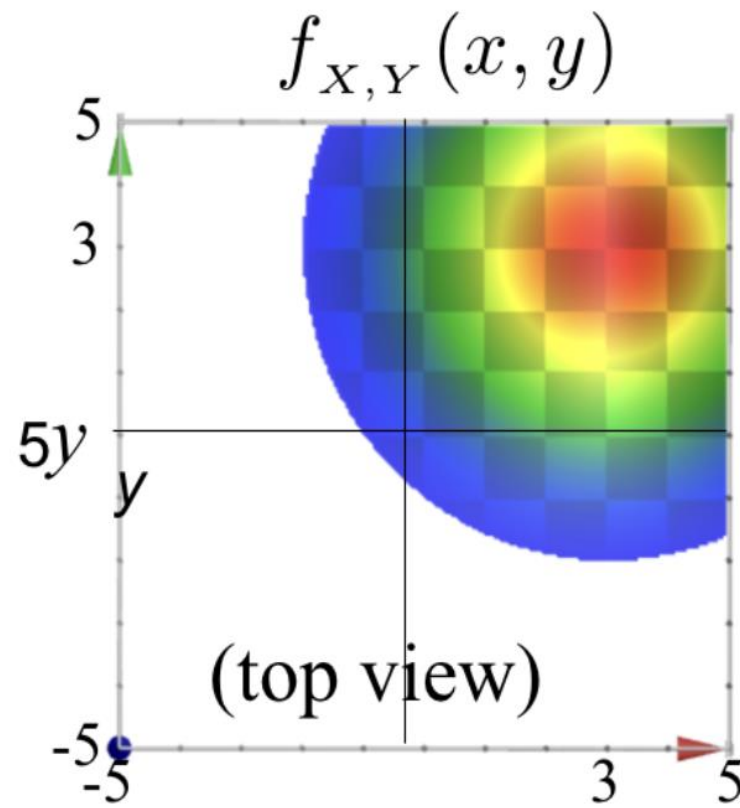
Last Radar
Contact

Satellite
37.800 km above sea level.



Prior

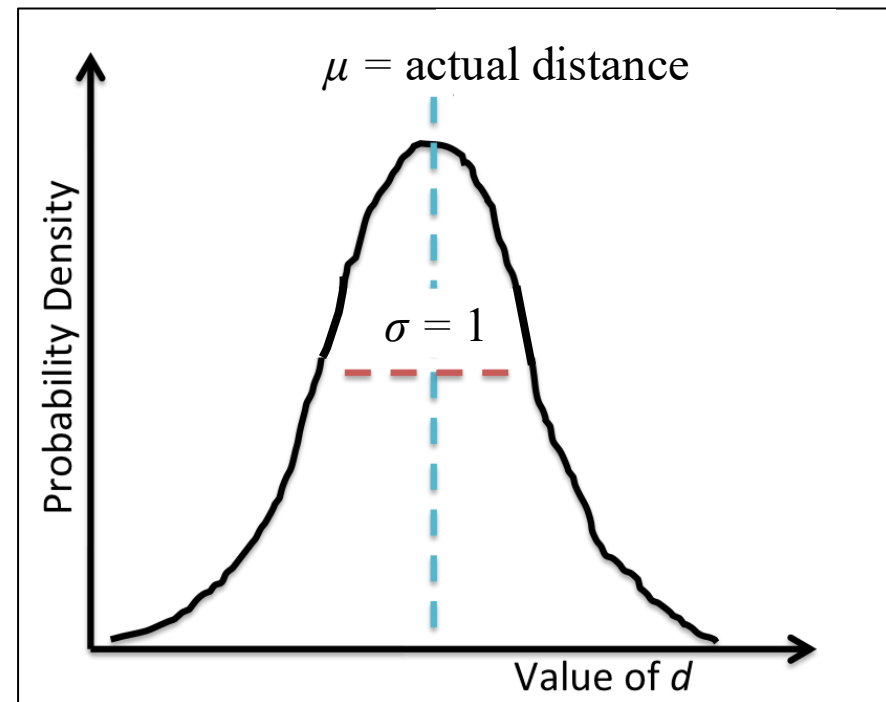
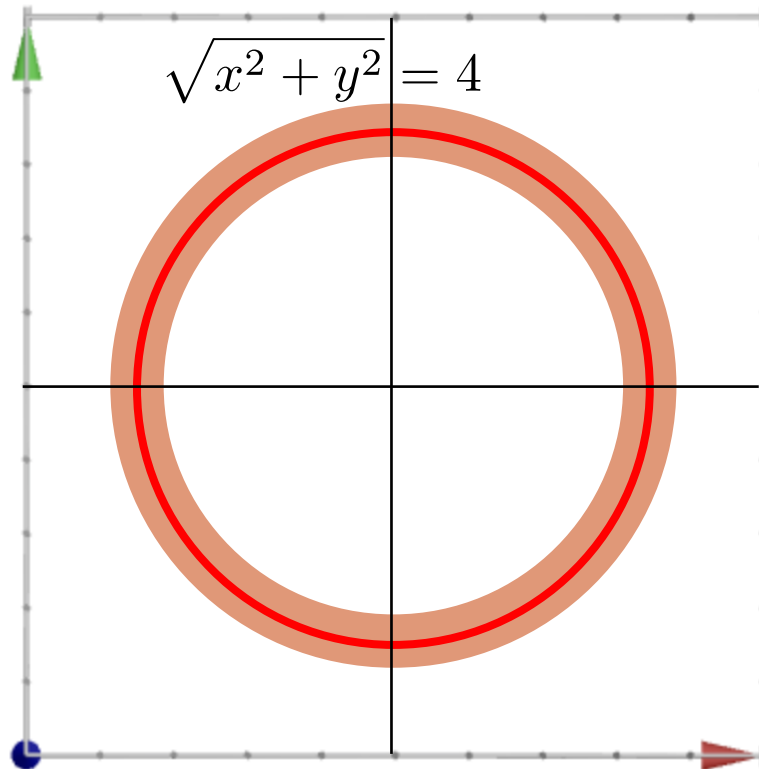
Prior belief:
$$f(X = x, Y = y) = \frac{1}{8 \cdot \pi} \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2}{8}}$$



Likelihood

You now observe a noisy distance reading from a sensor at (0,0).
It says that your object is distance $D = 4$ away

$$D|X, Y \sim N(\mu = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \sigma^2 = 1)$$



Put it all Together

$$\begin{aligned} & f(X = x, Y = y \mid D = 4) \\ &= \frac{f(D = 4 \mid X = x, Y = y) \cdot f(X = x, Y = y)}{f(D = 4)} \\ &= \frac{K_1 \cdot e^{-\frac{(4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2})^2}{2}} \cdot K_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2}{8}}}{f(D = 4)} \\ &= \frac{K_1 \cdot K_2}{f(D = 4)} \cdot e^{-\left[\frac{(4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2})^2}{2} + \frac{(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2}{8}\right]} \\ &= K_3 \cdot e^{-\left[\frac{(4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2})^2}{2} + \frac{(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2}{8}\right]} \end{aligned}$$

Bayes using densities

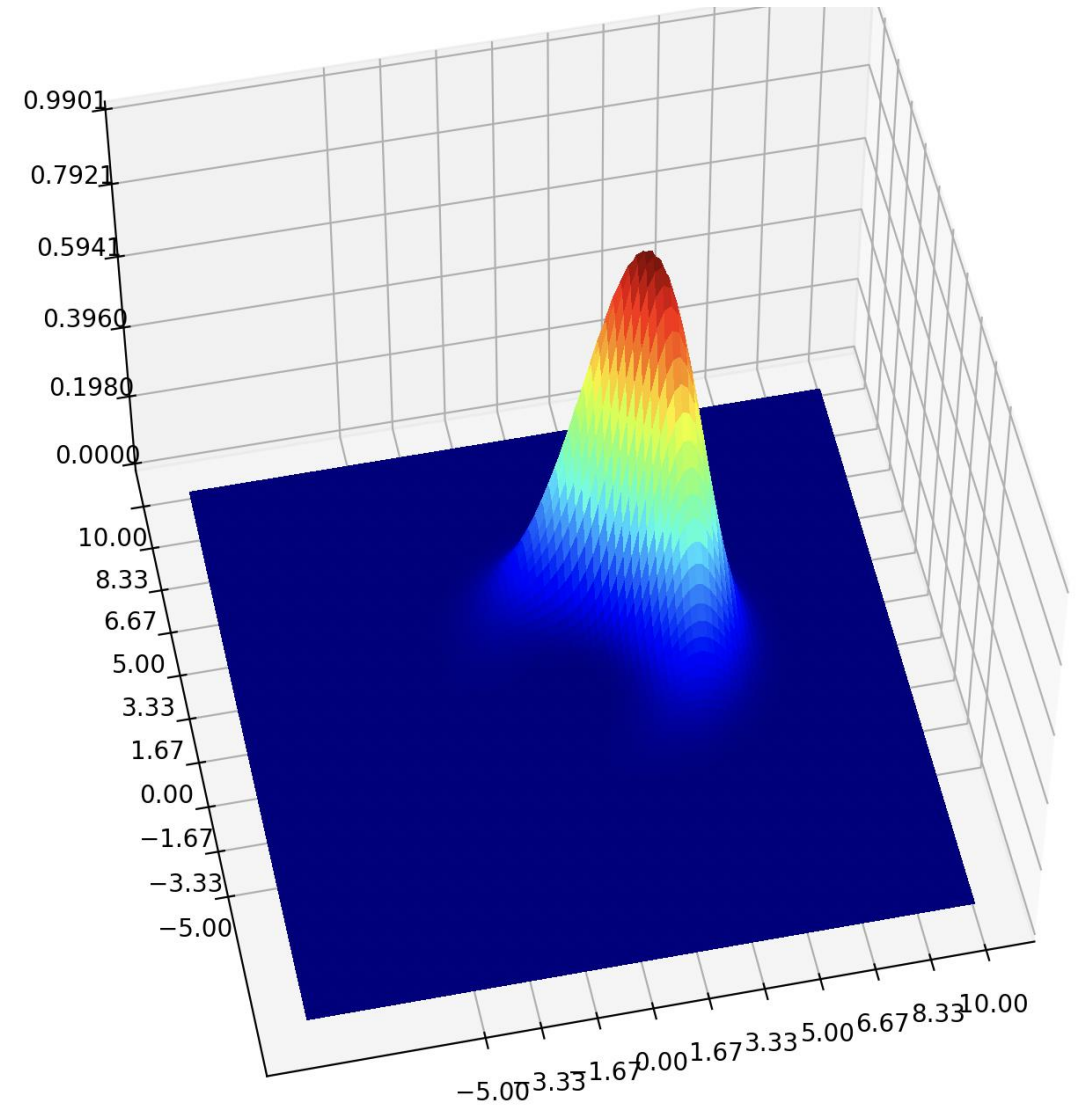
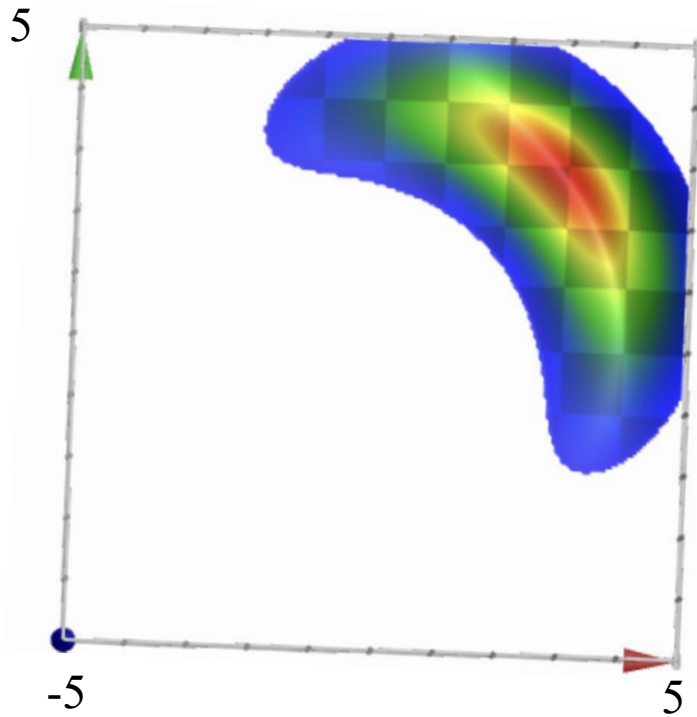
Substitute

$f(D = 4)$ is a constant w.r.t. (x, y)

K_3 is a new constant

Tracking Posterior

$$f(X = x, Y = y \mid D = 4)$$



Many real world problems have way more than two random variables...

Why You Need a Model

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Why You Need a Model

WebMD Symptom Checker WITH BODY MAP

INFO SYMPTOMS QUESTIONS CONDITIONS DETAILS TREATMENT

What are your symptoms?

Type your main symptom here



↺

≡

CVIN

Multiple Random Variables. Start of Digital Revolution

Conditions that match your symptoms

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS ⓘ

Migraine headache (adult)

Moderate match

>

Acute Sinusitis

Fair match

>

Stroke

Fair match

>

Gender

Male

Age

30

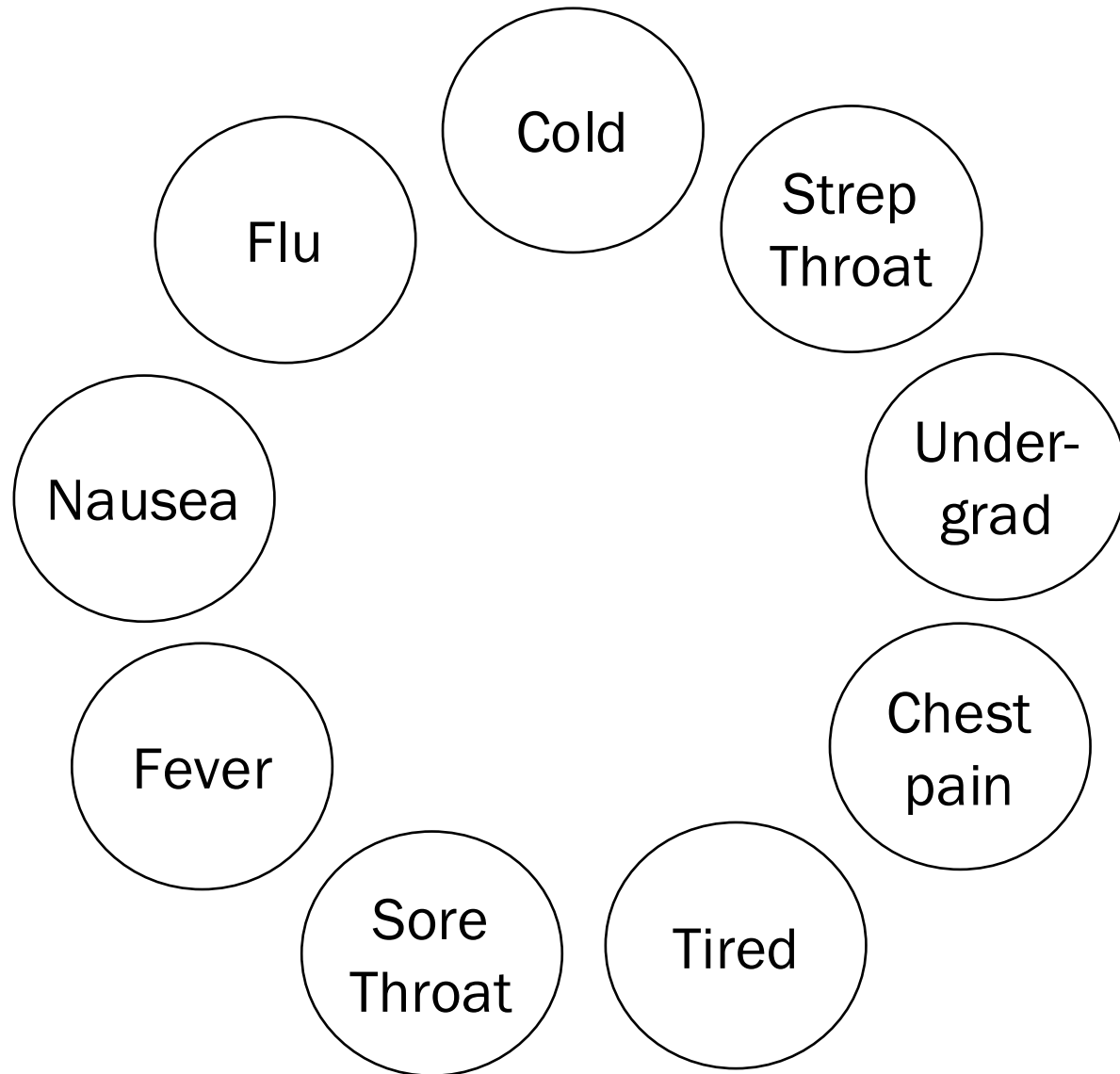
Edit

My Symptoms

Edit

dizziness, one sided headache

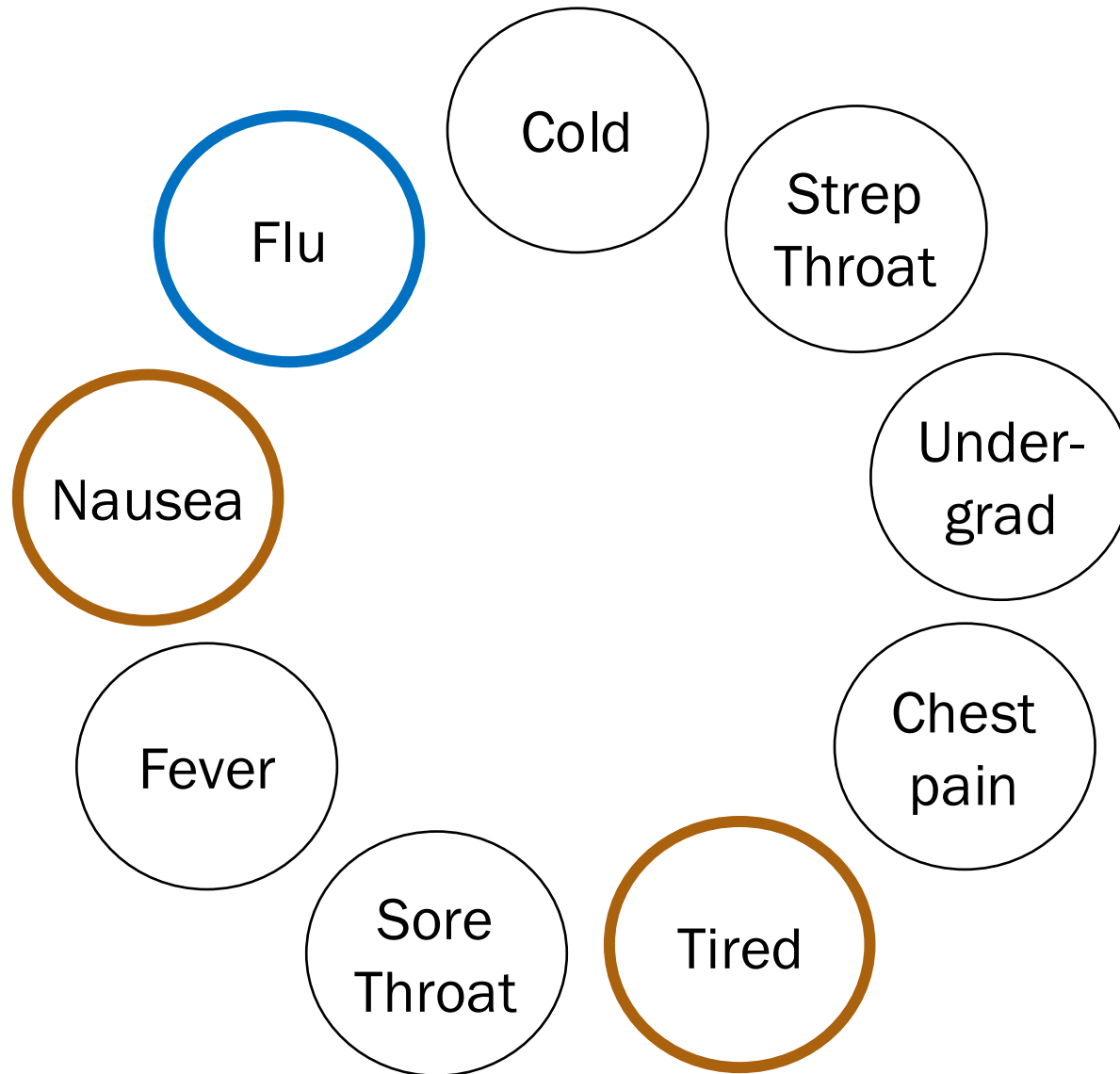
Challenge #1: Many Inference Questions



Inference question:

Given the values of some random variables, what are the conditional distributions of some other random variables?

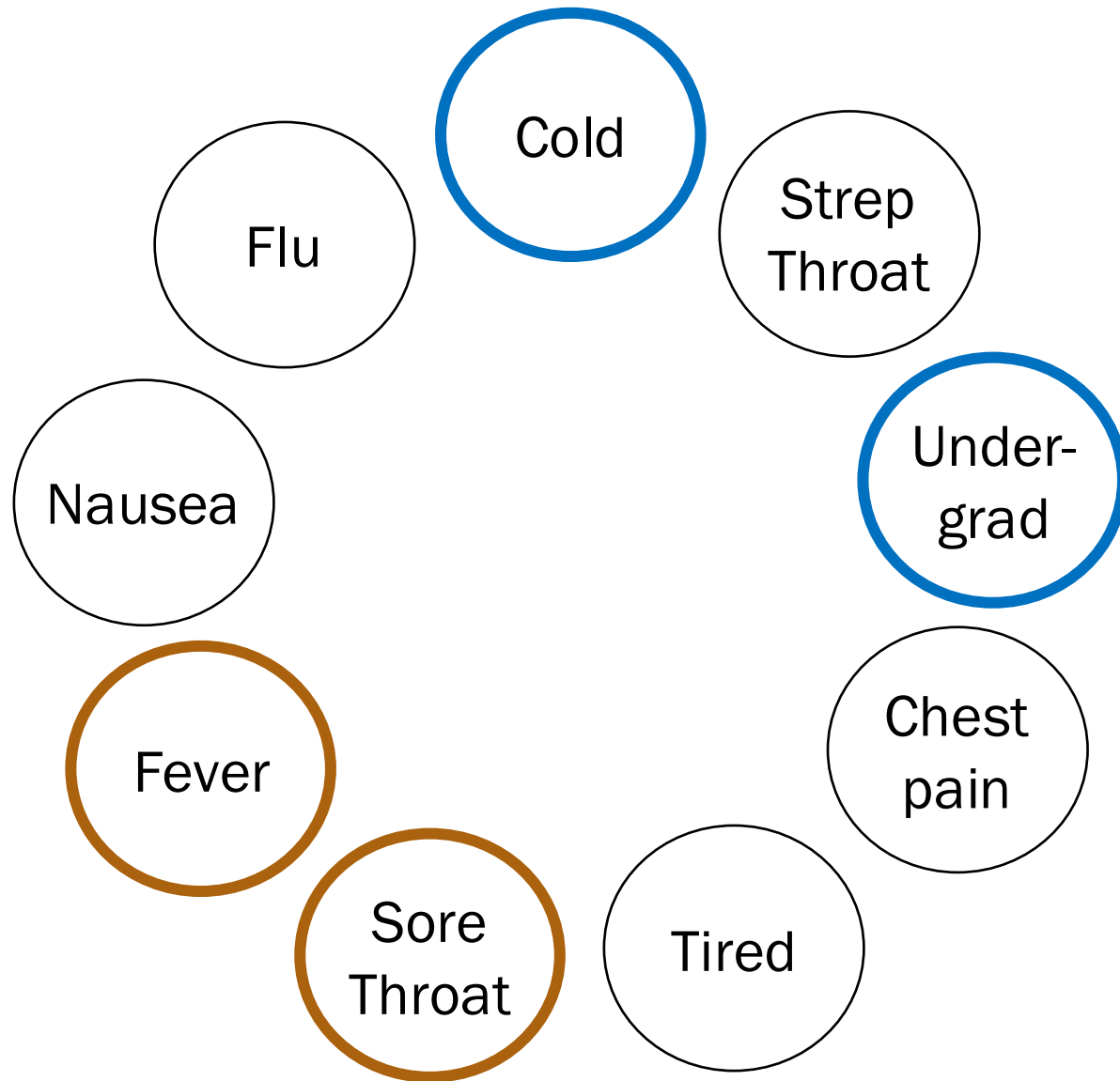
Challenge #1: Many Inference Questions



One inference question:

$$P(F = 1 | N = 1, T = 1)$$

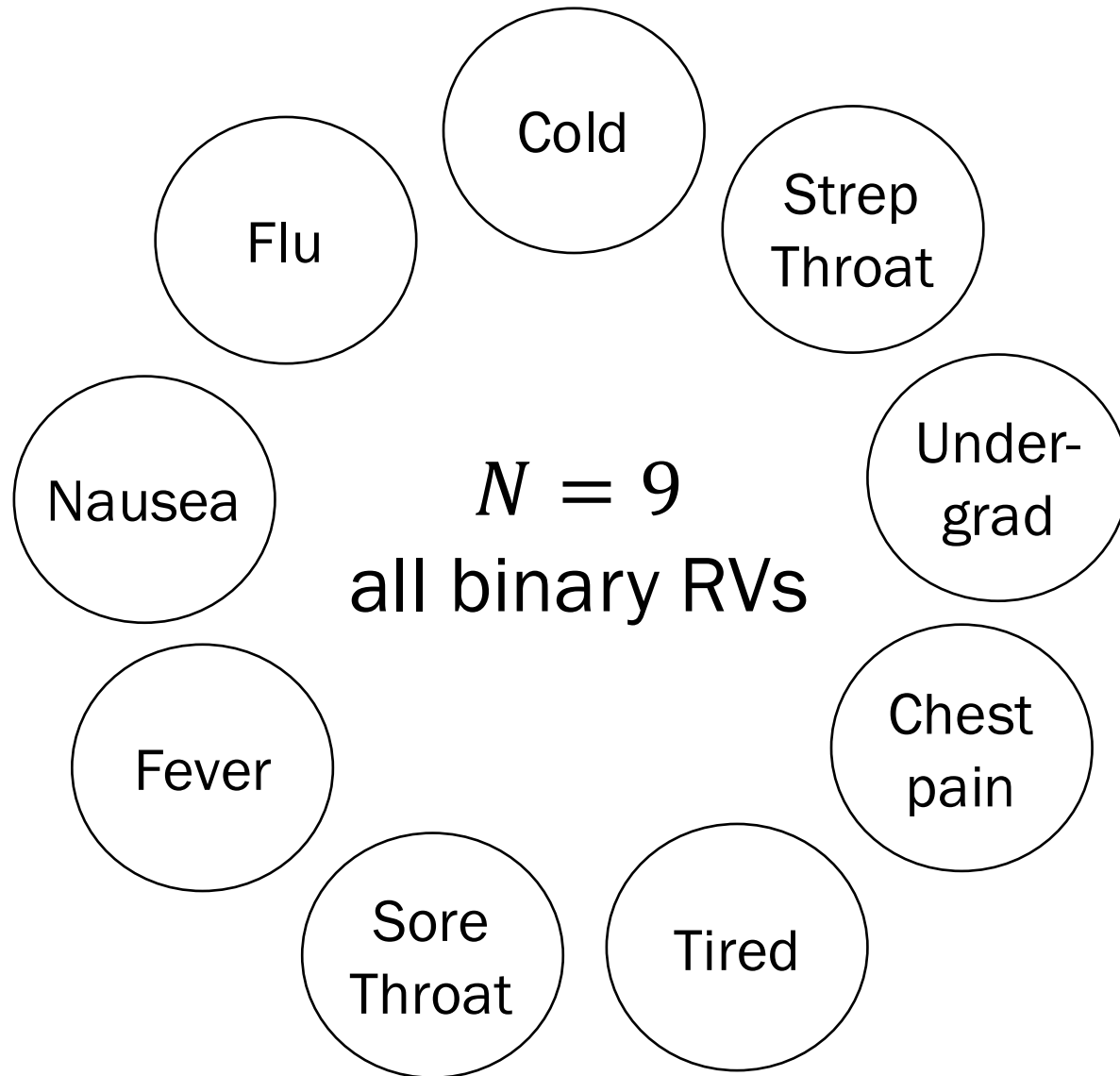
Challenge #1: Many Inference Questions



Another inference question:

$$P(C_o = 1, U = 1 | S = 0, F_e = 0)$$

Challenge #2: Joint is Large



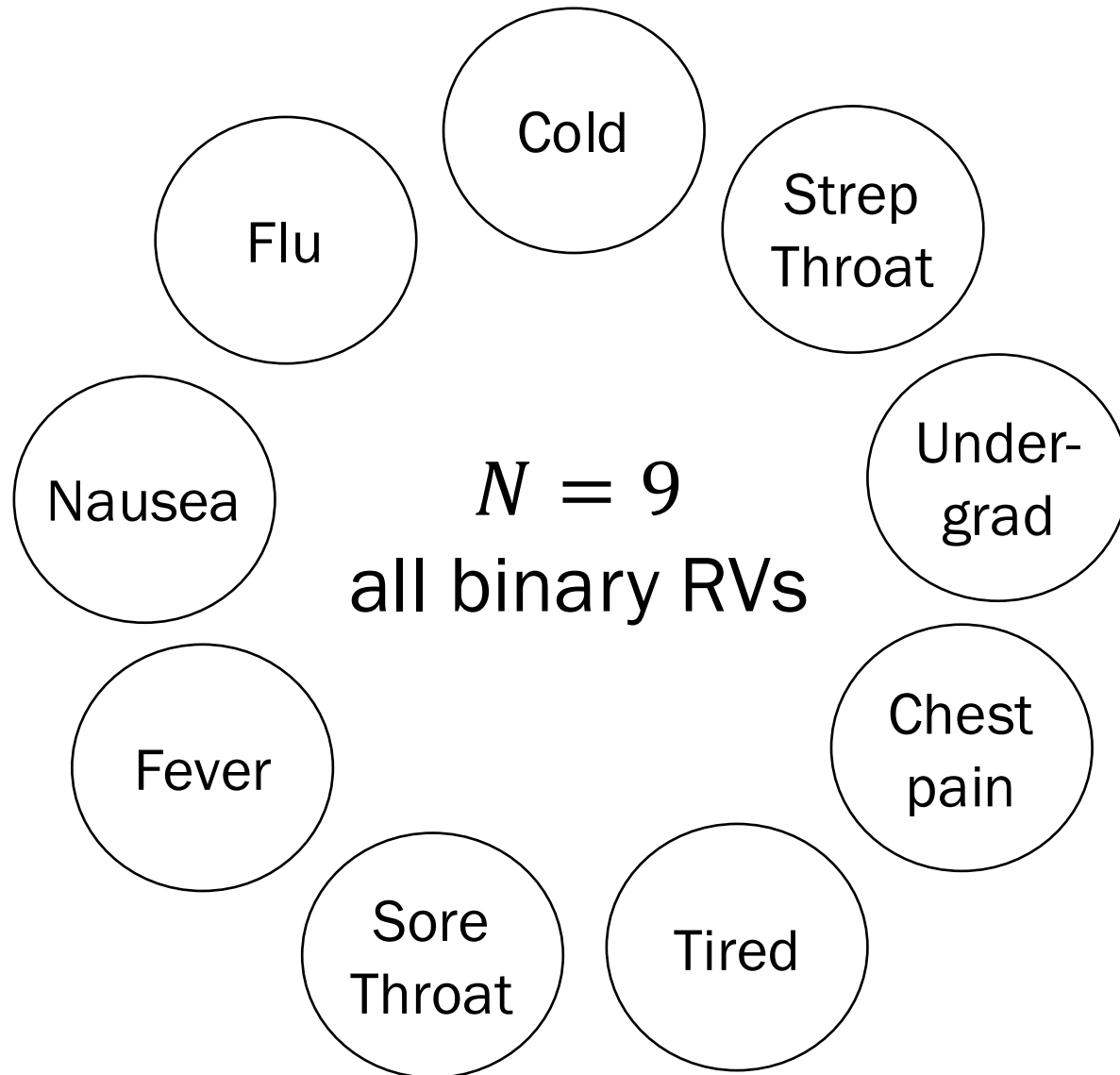
If we knew the **joint distribution**, we can answer all probabilistic inference questions.

What is the size of the joint probability table?

- A. 2^{N-1} entries
- B. N^2 entries
- C. 2^N entries
- D. None/other/don't know



Challenge #2: Joint is Large



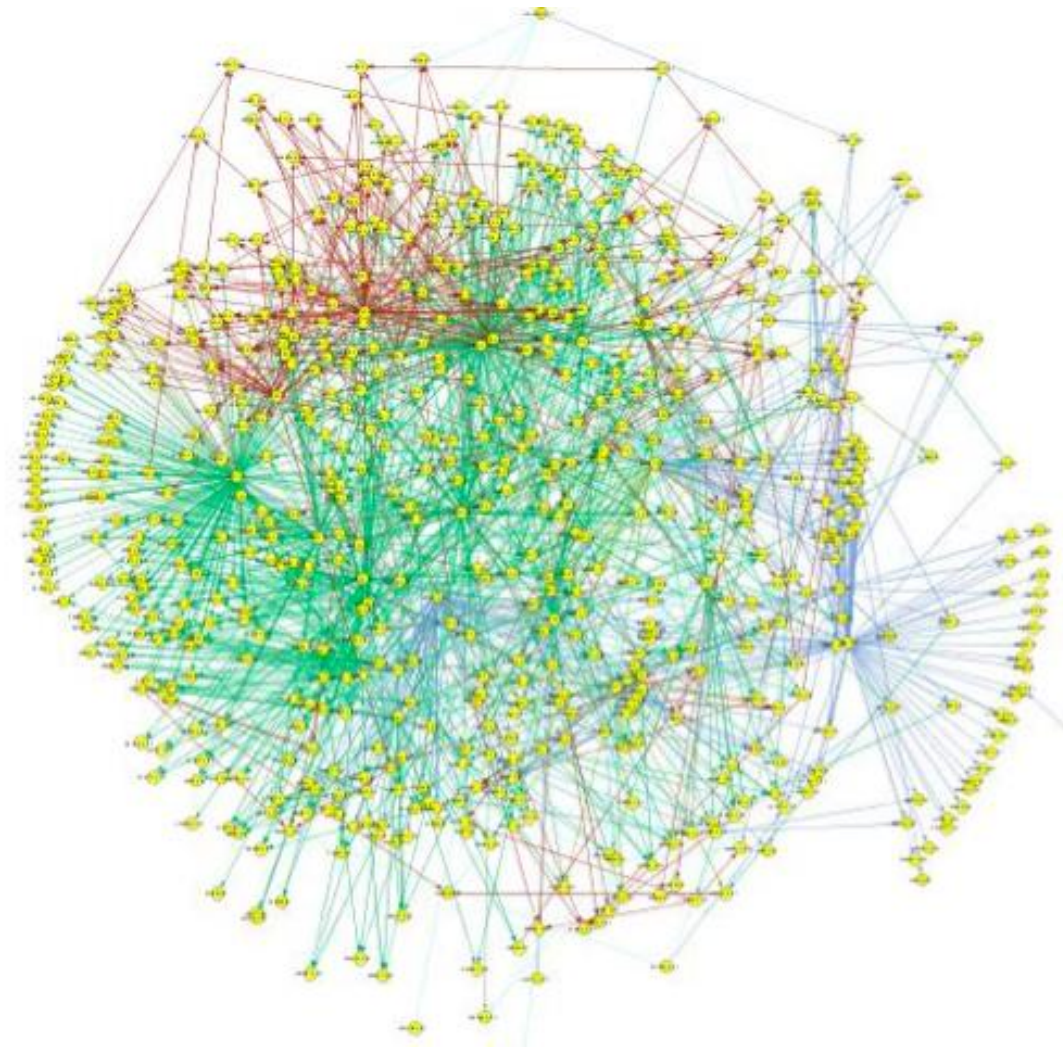
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What is the size of the joint probability table?

- A. 2^{N-1} entries
- B. N^2 entries
- ☒ C. 2^N entries
- D. None/other/don't know

Naively specifying a joint distribution is, in general, intractable.

A large, complex network graph visualization. The nodes are small yellow circles, and the edges are thin lines colored in red, green, and blue. The graph is highly interconnected, with a dense central core and many smaller clusters or communities branching out. The edges are colored to represent different clusters or communities, with red edges forming a dense central core, green edges forming a large cluster on the left, and blue edges forming a cluster on the right. The overall shape is roughly circular, with many edges extending to the periphery.



Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people actually define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

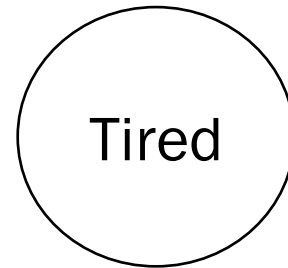
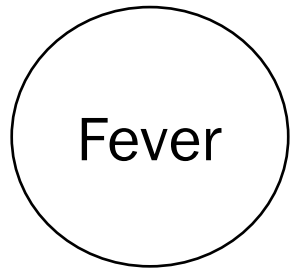
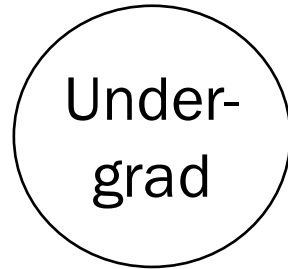
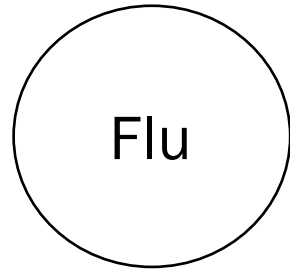
Three Guiding Questions

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Why You Need a Model

*Web*MD[®]

A simpler WebMD

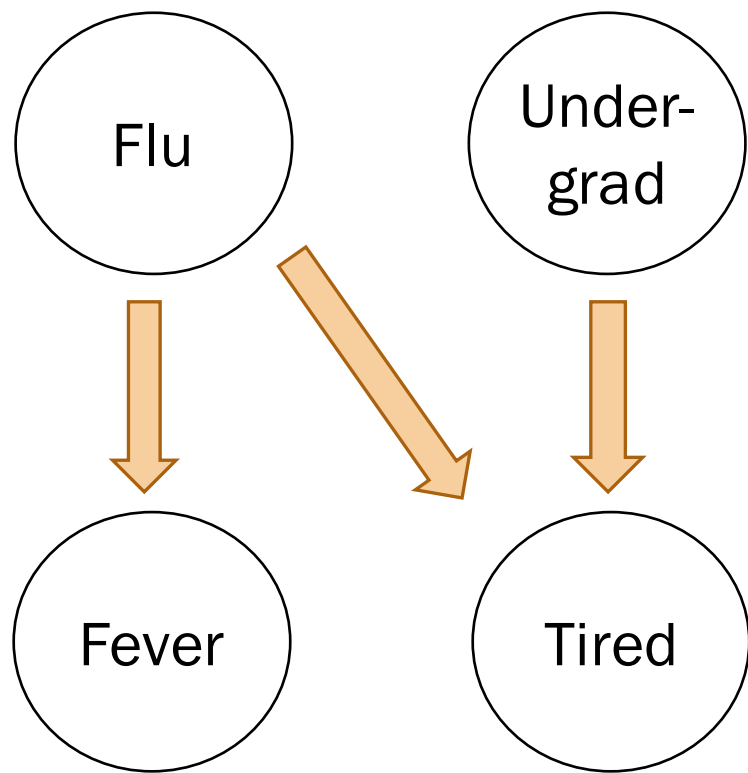


Great! Just specify $2^4 = 16$ joint probabilities...?

$$P(F_{lu} = a, F_{ev} = b, U = c, T = d)$$

We can compress the joint if we know the generative story...

Constructing a Bayesian Network

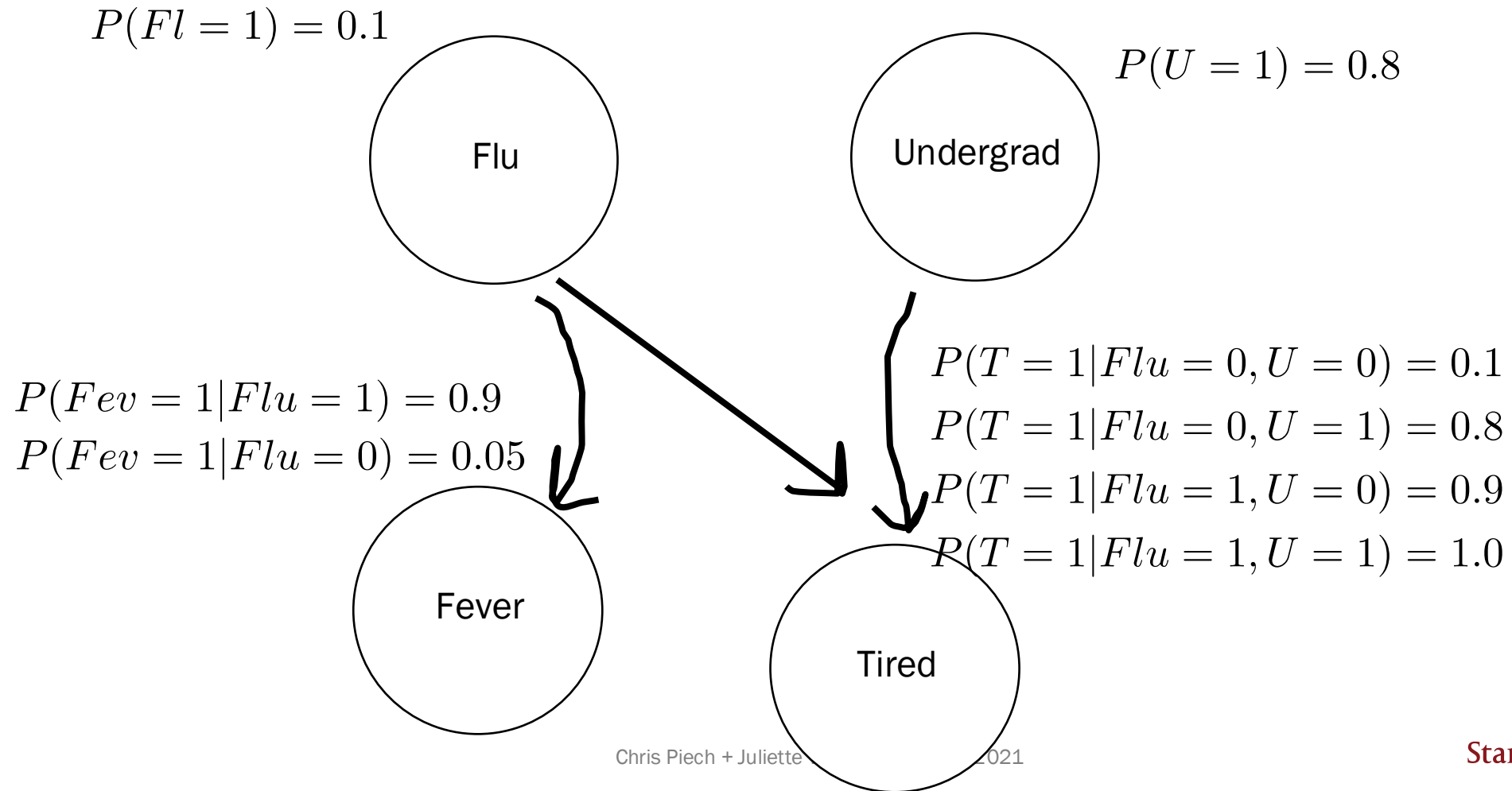


What would a Stanford flu expert do?

- ✓ 1. Describe the causality.
2. Provide $P(\text{values}|\text{causal parents})$ for each random variable
3. Implicitly assumes independences.

Recall: Probabilistic Model

- ✓ 2. Provide $P(\text{values}|\text{causal parents})$ for each random variable



Recall: Probabilistic Model

- ✓ 2. Provide $P(\text{values}|\text{causal parents})$ for each random variable

$$P(Fl = 1) = 0.1$$

$$P(U = 1) = 0.8$$

Flu

Undergrad

Check your understanding:

What is $P(\text{Fev} = 0 | \text{Flu} = 1)$

$$P(\text{Fev} = 1 | \text{Flu} = 1) = 0.9$$

$$P(\text{Fev} = 1 | \text{Flu} = 0) = 0.05$$

Fever

Tired

Could we write a python program which makes a fake person from this joint?

To the Code



Midjourney 2023. Prompt: “a lot of excited pixar characters running off to computers”



ChatGPT 5.2 2026. Prompt: “a lot of cute animated characters running off to computers to solve a problem”


```

3 def make_sample():
4     """
5     Make Sample
6     -----
7     chose a single sample from the joint distribution
8     """
9     # prior on causal factors
10    flu = bern(0.1)
11    undergrad = bern(0.8)
12
13    # choose fever based on flue
14    if flu == 1: fever = bern(0.9)
15    else:        fever = bern(0.05)
16
17    # choose tired based on (undergrade and flu)
18    if undergrad == 1 and flu == 1: tired = bern(1.0)
19    elif undergrad == 1 and flu == 0: tired = bern(0.8)
20    elif undergrad == 0 and flu == 1: tired = bern(0.9)
21    else:        tired = bern(0.1)
22
23    # a sample from the joint has an
24    # assignment to *all* random variables
25    return {
26        'flu':flu,
27        'undergrad':undergrad,
28        'fever':fever,
29        'tired':tired
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Can You Sample from the Joint?



Writing a python
program that can
sample from the joint,
is the same as defining
the joint.

Make a *Generative* Model



A good probabilistic model is **generative**. It explains the process through which the joint is **created**.

Generative Model of Binomial Questions

```
16    })
17
18    class DeclareExpTask(Decision):
19
20        def renderCode(self):
21            explicit = self.getChoice('explicitRv')
22            if explicit:
23                return self.expand('DeclareExplicitExpTask')
24            else:
25                return self.expand('DeclareSubtleExpTask')
26
27
28    TEMPLATES = {
29        'standard': {
30            'template': 'what is the expected number of {successes}',
31            'weight': 5
32        },
33        'v2': {
34            'template': 'what is the expectation of {successes}',
35            'weight': 5
36        },
37        'v3': {
38            'template': 'what is the average number of {successes}',
39            'weight': 2
40        },
41    }
42
43    class DeclareSubtleExpTask(Decision):
44
45        def registerChoices(self):
46            self.addChoice('expStyle1', gu.makeChoicesFromMap(TEMP
47
48        def renderCode(self):
49            tempVars = {
50                'successes': self.getState('successesStr')
51            }
52            key = self.getChoice('expStyle1')
53            template = TEMPLATES[key]['template']
```

generateBinomial — -zsh — 85x43

You are flipping a coin 50 times. The probability of a head on each coin-flip is 1/5. What is the probability that the number of heads is 21?

Answer:
Let X be the number of heads.
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 50, p = 1/5)$
 $P(X = 21) = \binom{50}{21} p^{21} (1 - p)^{50 - 21}$

You are trying to mine bitcoins. You try 100 times. The probability of a mining a bit coin on each attempt is 3/25. What is the probability that the number of bitcoins mined is 99?

Answer:
Let X be the number of bitcoins mined.
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 100, p = 3/25)$
 $P(X = 99) = \binom{100}{99} p^{99} (1 - p)^{100 - 99}$

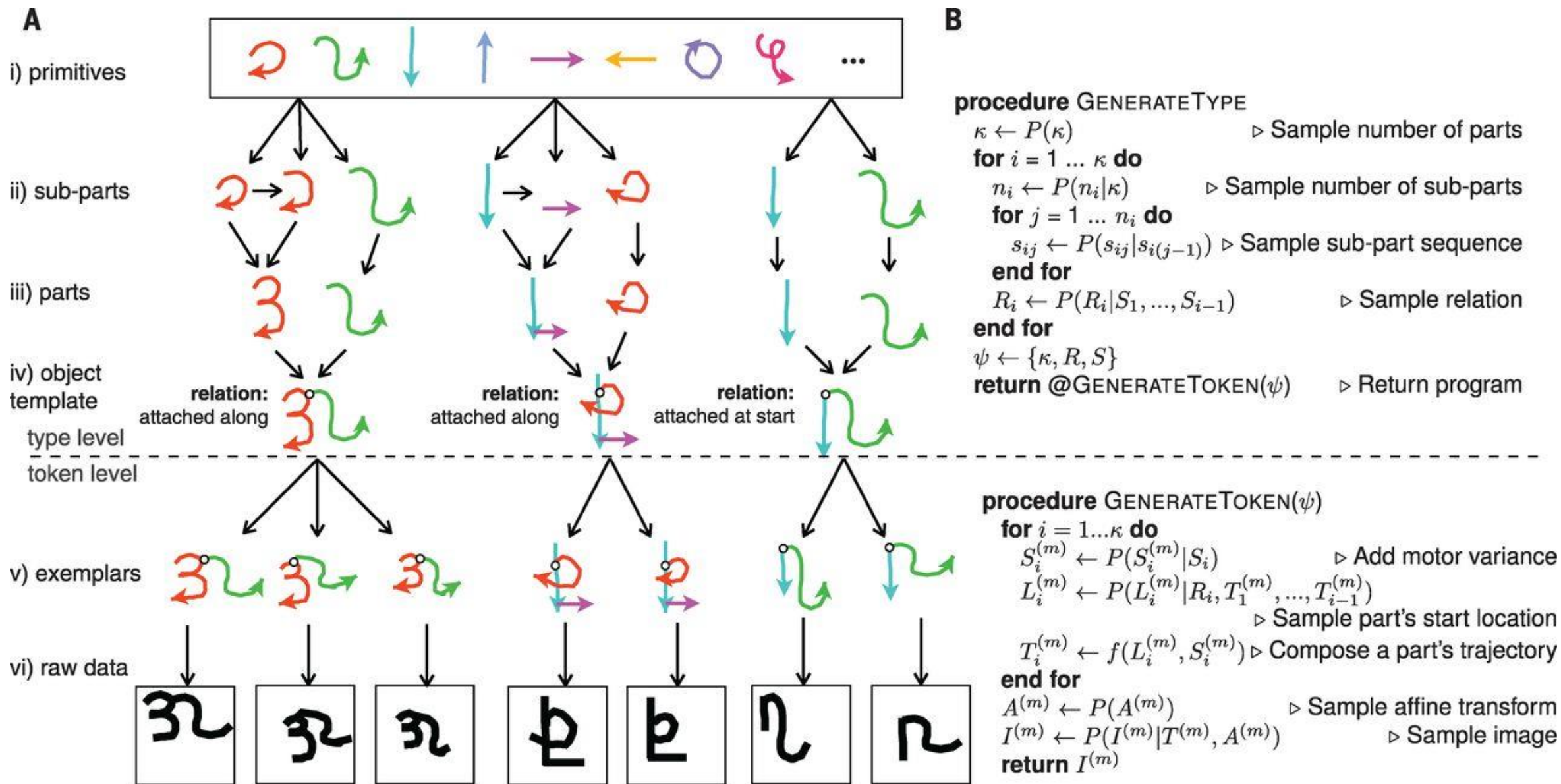
You are running in an election. The number of votes for you can be represented by a random variable X. $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 100, p = 1/20)$. What is the probability that X is equal to 6?

Answer:
Let X be the number of votes for you.
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 100, p = 1/20)$
 $P(X = 6) = \binom{100}{6} p^6 (1 - p)^{100 - 6}$

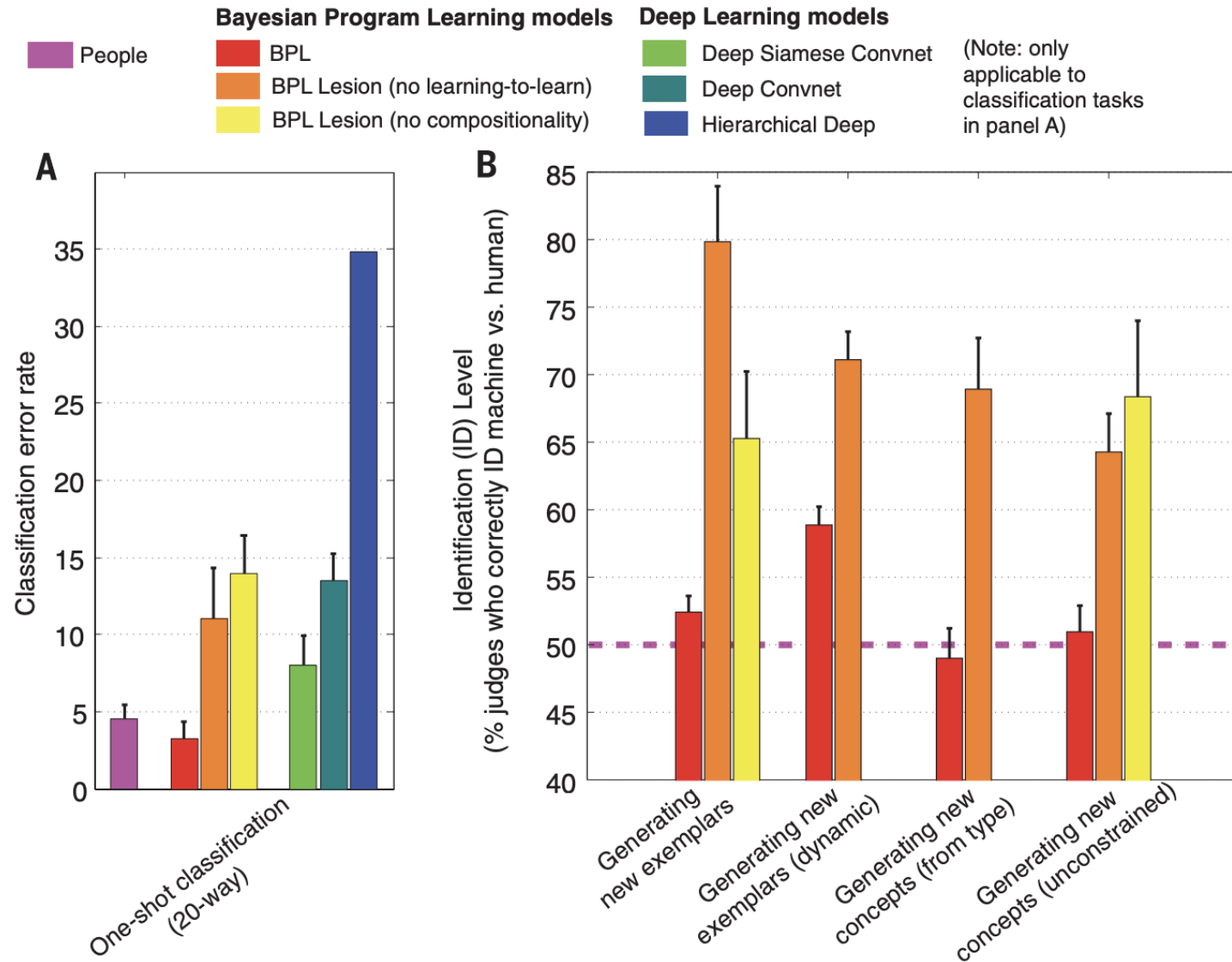
A ball hits a series of 10 pins where it can bounce either right or left. The probability of a right on each pin hit is 0.5. What is the probability that the number of rights is greater than 7?

Answer:
Let X be the number of rights.
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 10, p = 0.5)$
 $P(X > 7) = P(8 \leq X \leq 10)$
 $= \sum_{i=8}^{10} \binom{10}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{10 - i}$

Generative Model of Hand Written Letters

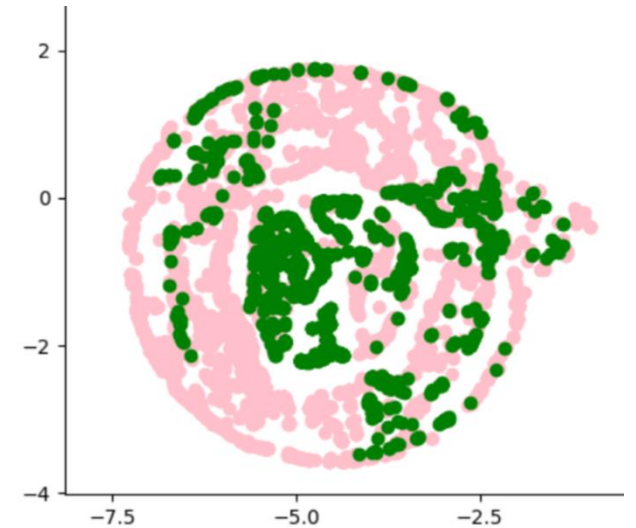
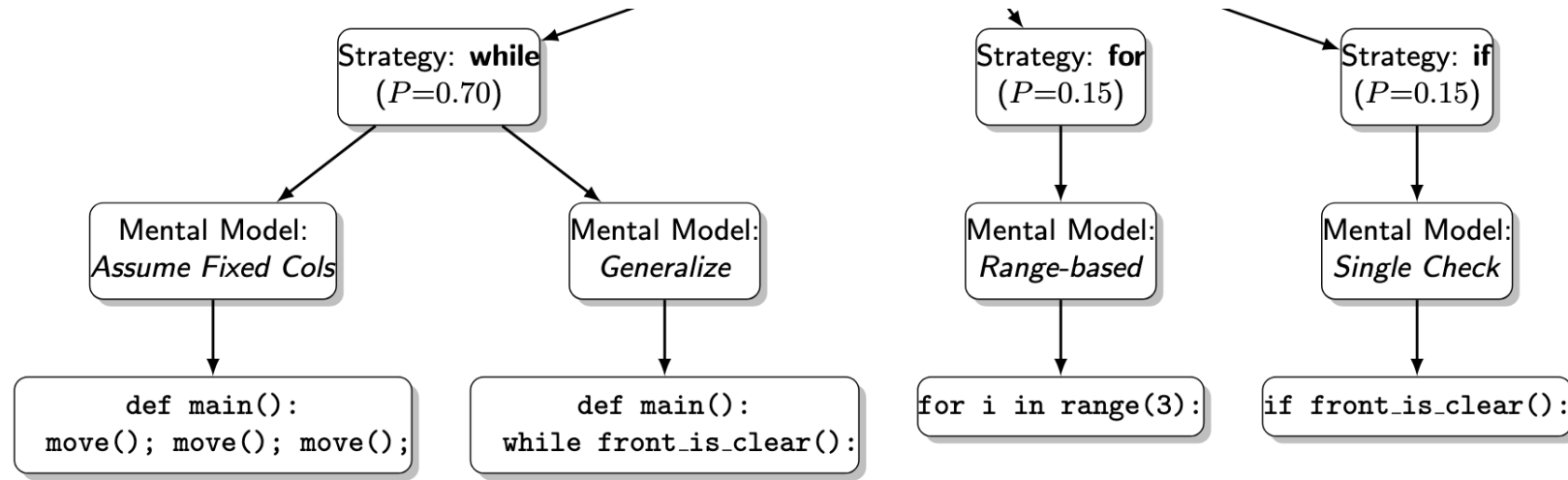


Human Level. And More!



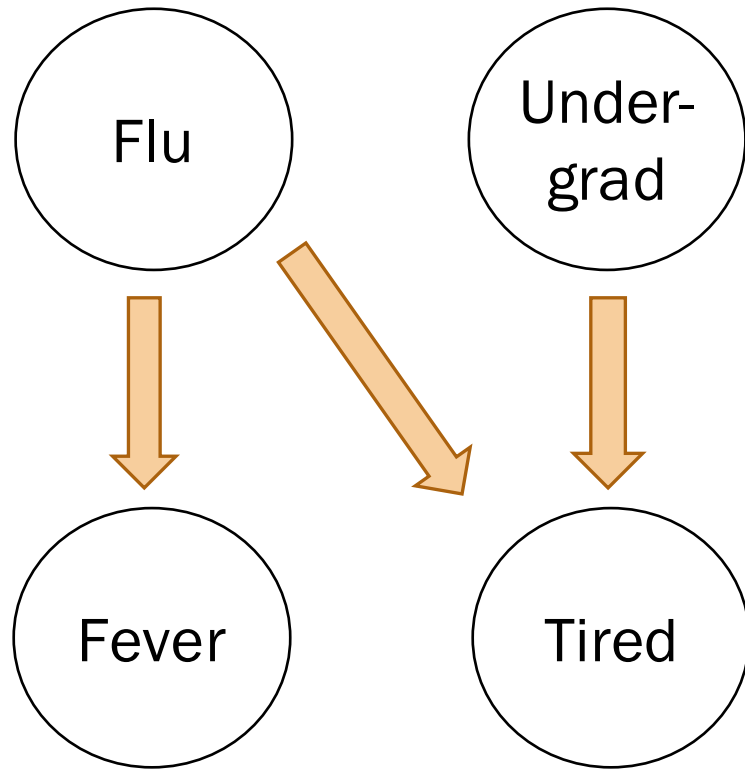
Generative Student Modeling

Juliette Woodrow, Chris Piech, 2021



Used generative grammars to simulate the most common buggy programs that TAs would see in LaIR.

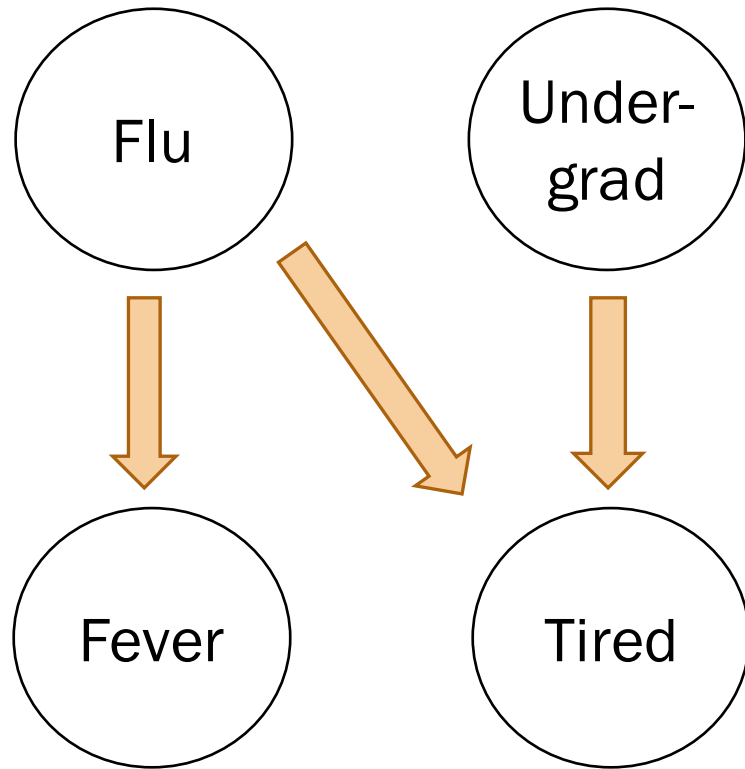
Generative Models make Independence Assumptions



What would a Stanford flu expert do?

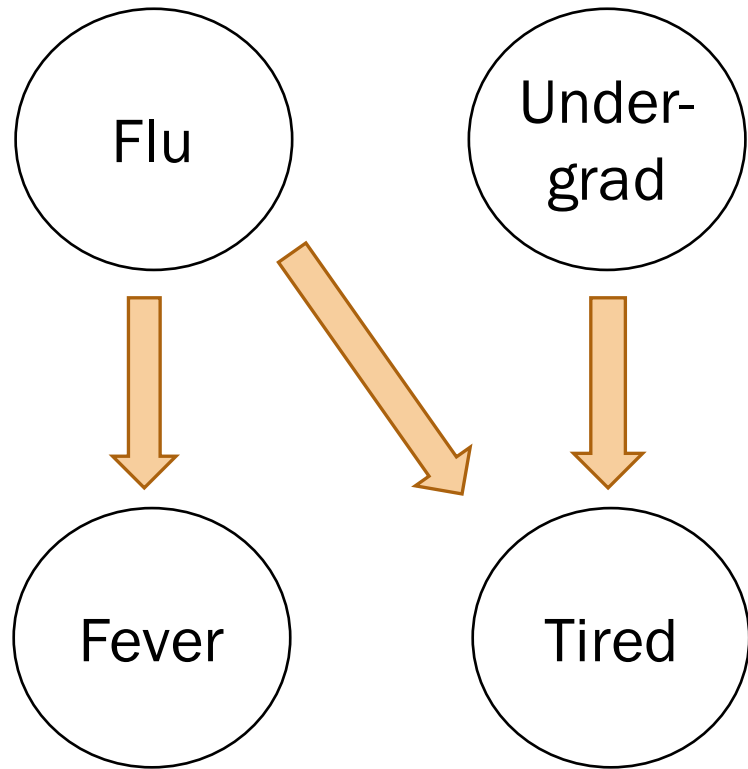
- ✓ 1. Describe the causality.
- ✓ 2. Provide $P(\text{values}|\text{causal parents})$ for each random variable
3. Implicitly assumes independences.

Generative Models make Independence Assumptions



Each random variable is **conditionally independent** of its causal non-descendants, **given its causal parents**.

Generative Models make Independence Assumptions

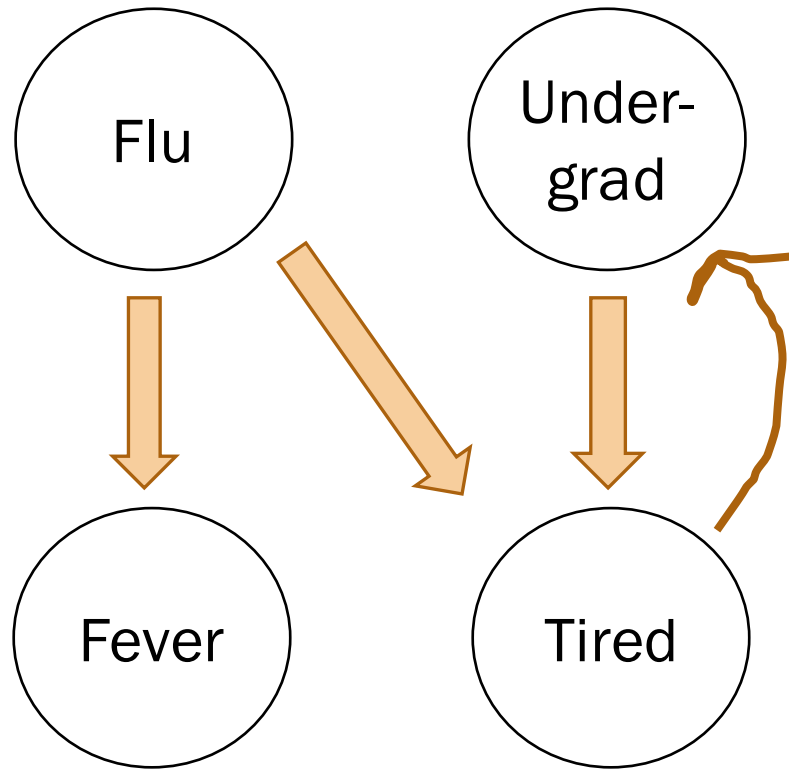


This model assumes that Flu and being an Undergraduate are independent.

Advanced: it also assumes that fever and tired are conditionally independent given Flu.

You need to tell a generative story. The independence assumptions come for free.

Bug: Constructing a Bayesian Network



Must be acyclic!

Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

[suspense]

Computational Inference

Query: $P(\text{Flu} \mid \text{Fever}, \text{Tired})$

Resample $N=10,000$

1. Sample
10,000

2. Reject

3. Count
Target From
Remaining

ICON MAPPING

■ UG

■ Flu

■ Fever

■ Tired

INFERENCE STATS

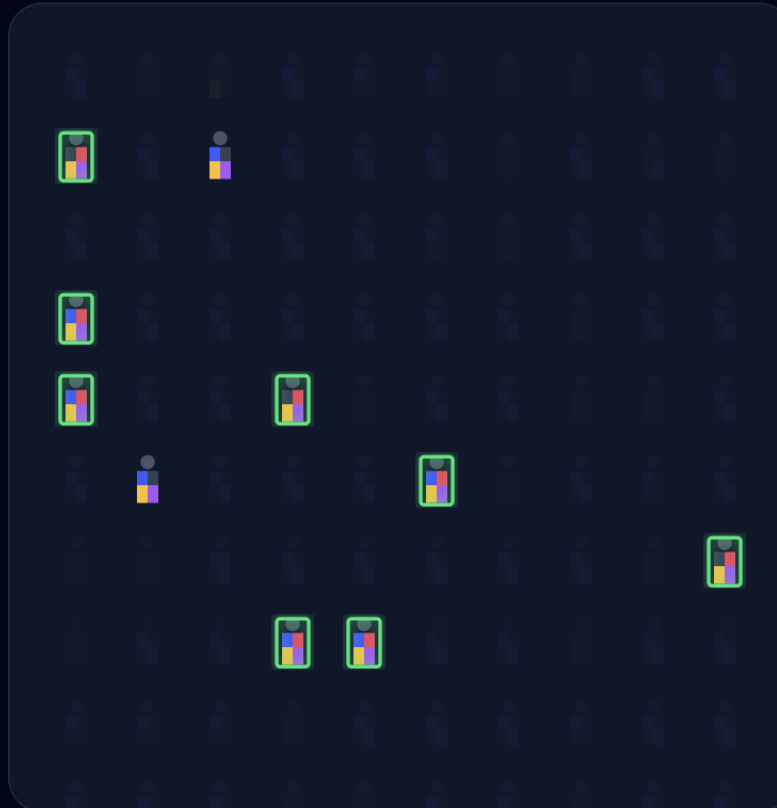
Total N **10,000**

Matches Evidence **1,148**

Target (Flu+Evid) **870**

ESTIMATED PROBABILITY

0.758



Algorithm #2: Rejection Sampling

```
13  def main():
14      obs = get_observation()
15      samples = sample_a_ton()
16      prob = prob_flu_given_obs(samples, obs)
17      print('Observation = ', obs)
18      print('Pr(Flu | Obs) = ', prob)
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```

webMd — -zsh — 56x42

```
{'flu': 1, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 1, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
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Algorithm #2: Rejection Sampling

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Algorithm #2: Rejection Sampling

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35 def probablu_given_obs(samples, obs):
36     """
37     Calculate the probability of flu given many
38     samples from the joint distribution and a set
39     of observations to condition on.
40     """
41     # reject all samples which don't align
42     # with condition
43     keep_samples = []
44     for sample in samples:
45         if check_obs_match(sample, obs):
46             keep_samples.append(sample)
47
48     # from remaining, simply count...
49     flu_count = 0
50     for sample in keep_samples:
51         if sample['flu'] == 1:
52             flu_count += 1
53
54     # counting can be so sweet...
55     return float(flu_count) / len(keep_samples)
```

Algorithm #2: Rejection Sampling

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```

```
webMd - zsh - 53x25
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 1, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 1, 'tired': 1}
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{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
-----
Observation = {'flu': None, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever':
None, 'tired': 1}
Pr(Flu | Obs) = 0.1228646517739816
piech@Chriss-MBP-5 webMd %
```

Lets try it!

BACK 
TO
THE CODE

Rejection sampling algorithm

Inference
question:

What is $P(F_{lu} = 1 | U = 1, T = 1)$?

$$\text{probability} \approx \frac{\# \text{ samples with } (F_{lu} = 1, U = 1, T = 1)}{\# \text{ samples with } (U = 1, T = 1)}$$

Why would this definition of approximate probability make sense?



Why would this approximate probability make sense?

Inference
question:

What is $P(F_{lu} = 1 | U = 1, T = 1)$?

$$\text{probability} \approx \frac{\# \text{ samples with } (F_{lu} = 1, U = 1, T = 1)}{\# \text{ samples with } (U = 1, T = 1)}$$

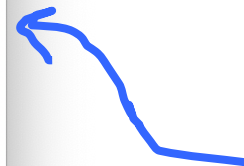
Recall our definition of
probability as a frequency:

$$P(E) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(E)}{n} \quad \begin{array}{l} n = \# \text{ of total trials} \\ n(E) = \# \text{ trials where } E \text{ occurs} \end{array}$$


```
webMd — -zsh — 53x25
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 1, 'tired': 0}
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{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
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{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 1}
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{'flu': 0, 'undergrad': 0, 'fever': 0, 'tired': 0}
-----
Observation = {'flu': None, 'undergrad': 1, 'fever':
None, 'tired': 1}
Pr(Flu | Obs) = 0.1228646517739816
piech@Chriss-MBP-5 webMd %
```



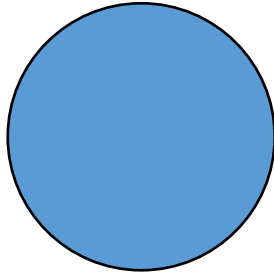
If you can sample enough
from the joint distribution,
you can answer any
probability question



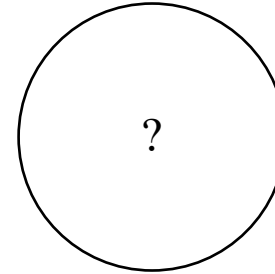
Each one of these is one joint
sample

Lets try another question

You observe that someone has a **recessive** gene.
What is the probability that their **cousin** has the same recessive gene?
Each person has a $1/20$ chance of having the recessive gene.

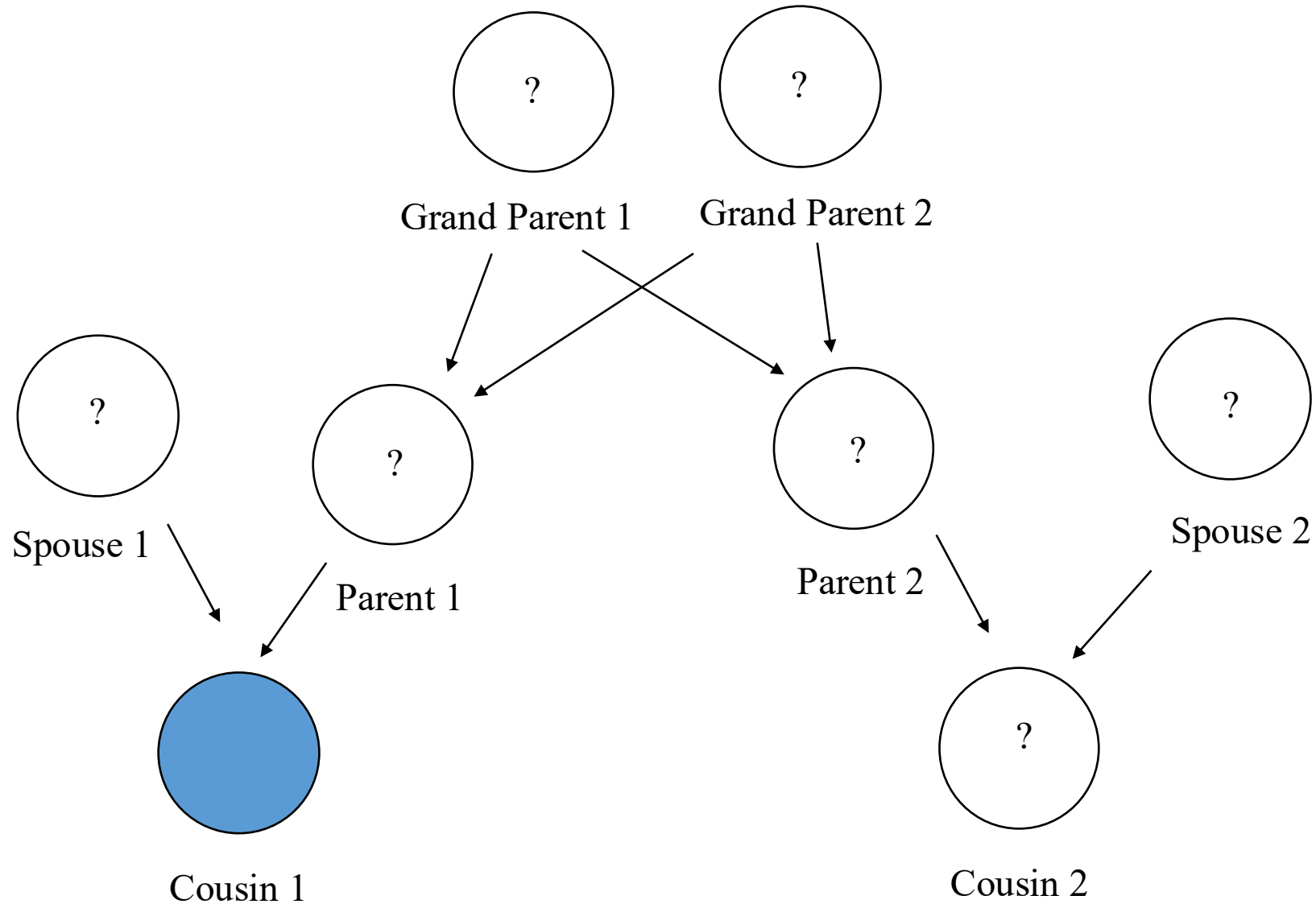


Cousin 1

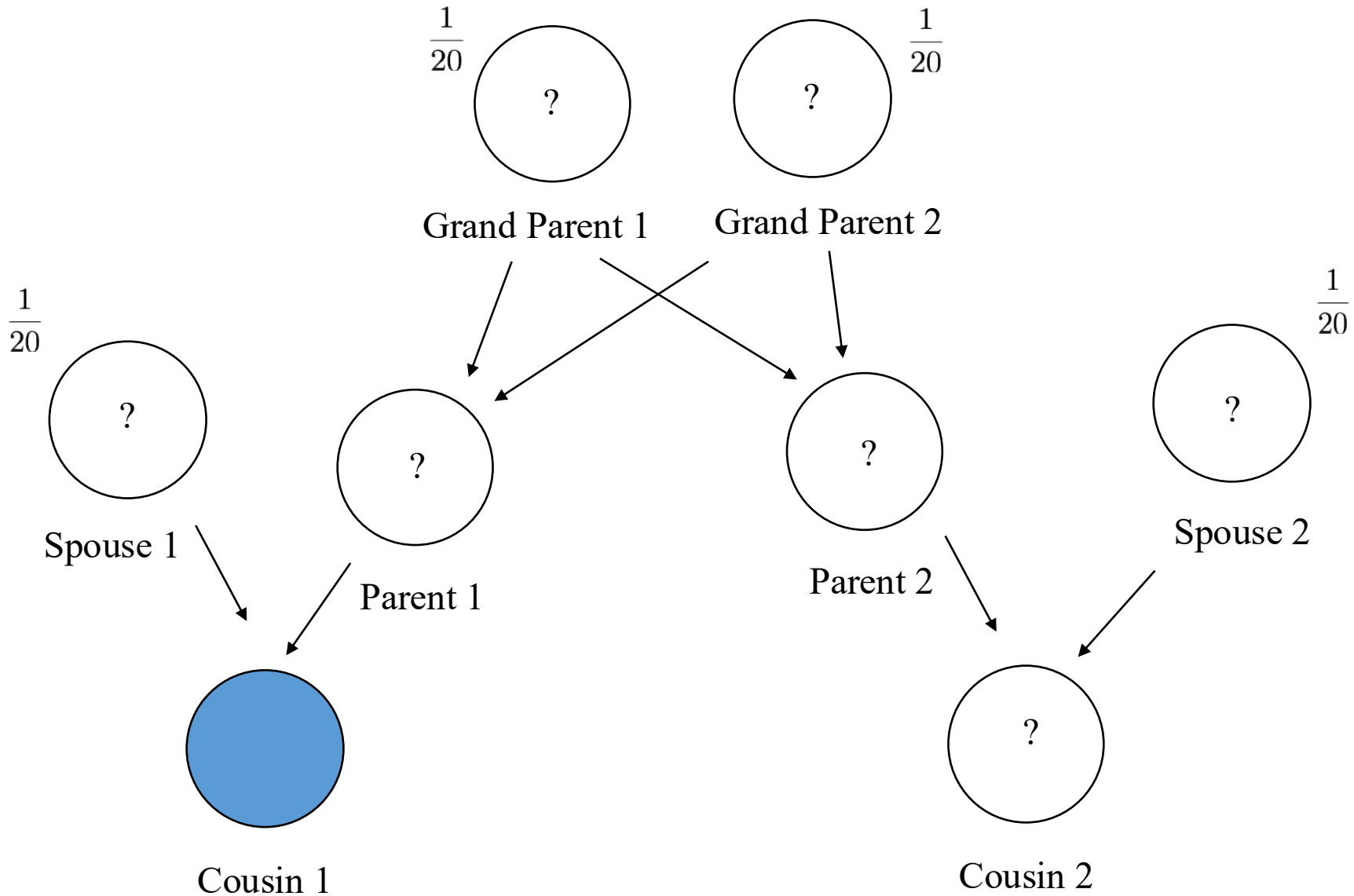


Cousin 2

You observe that someone has a **recessive** gene.
What is the probability that their **cousin** has the same recessive gene?

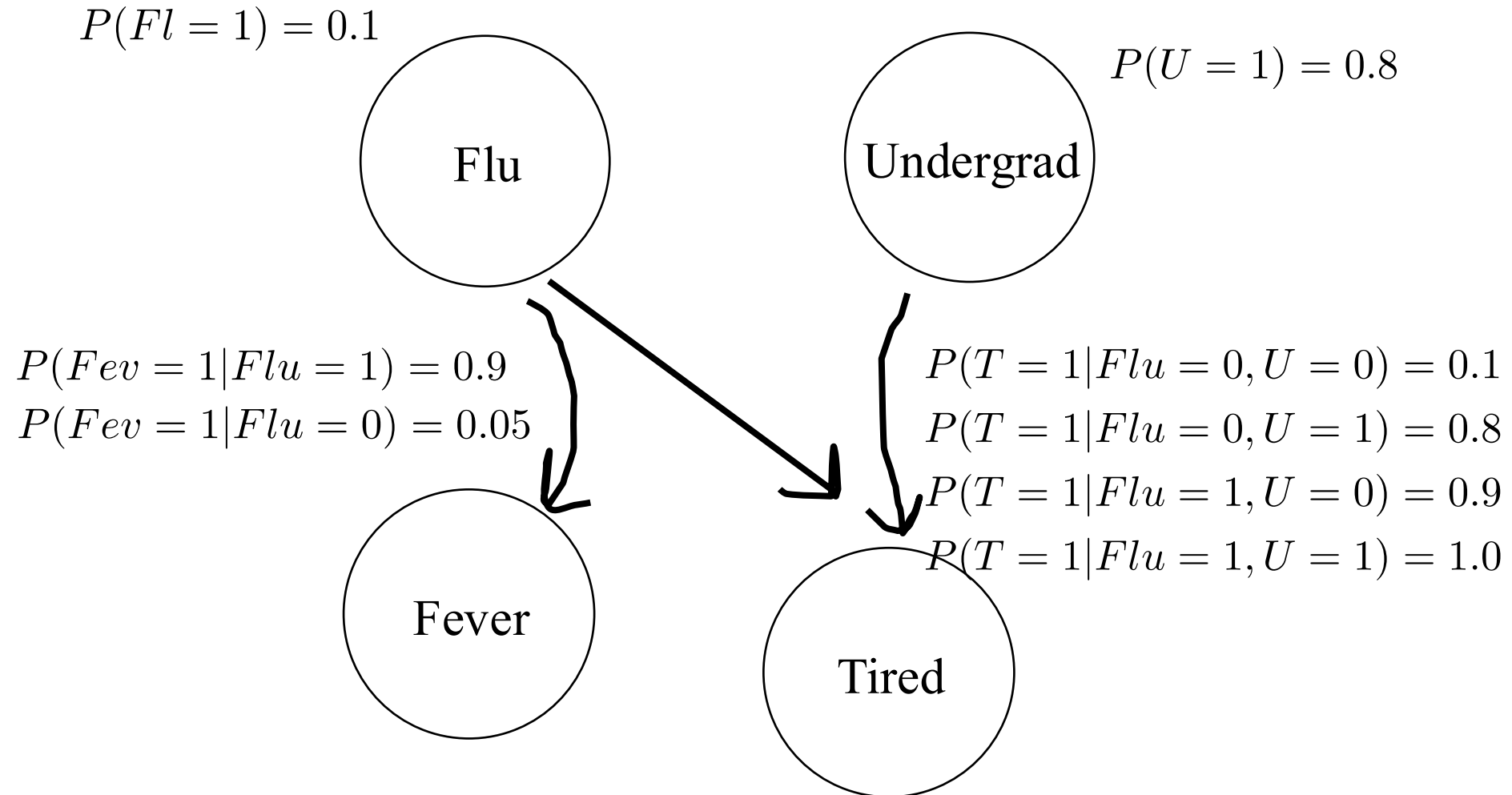


You observe that someone has a **recessive** gene.
What is the probability that their **cousin** has the same recessive gene?

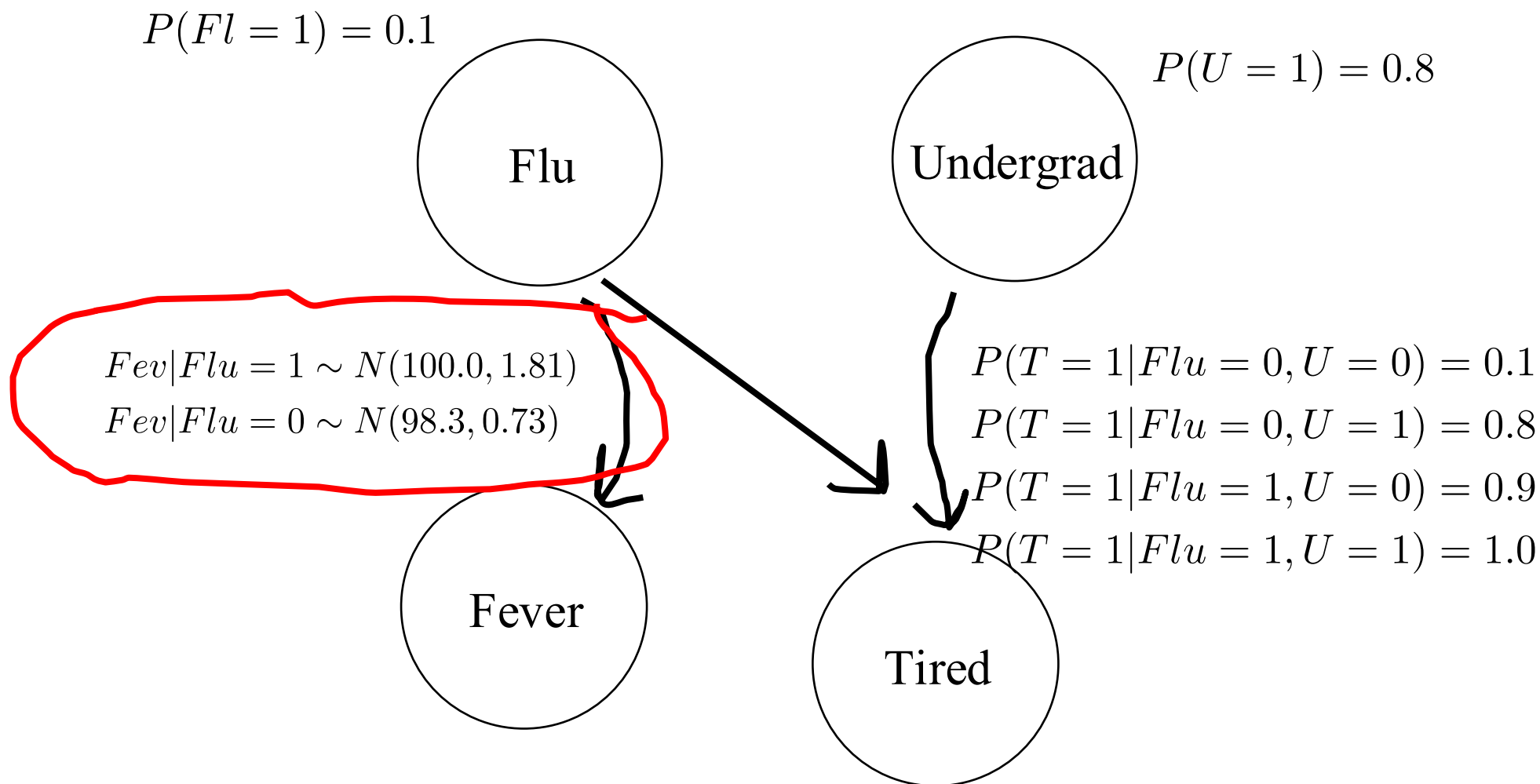


What's the matter with
rejection sampling?

Probabilistic Model



Probabilistic Model



Back to the code !!

Many Algorithms

Markov Chain



MCMC



Monte Carlo

Many Algorithms

```
webmd -- -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, 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]



Many Algorithms

Rejection
Sampling



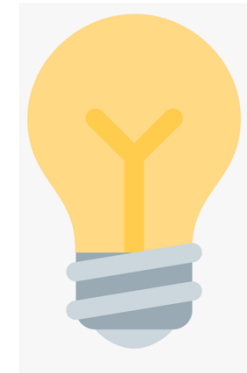
MCMC



Pyro



Idea2Text



Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

Three Guiding Questions

1. How do people define large models?
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ROCK

The Sound: Vigorous, defiant, energetic, inventive

The Roots: Rhythm & Blues, country


The Pioneers: Bill Haley, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley

The Places: Cleveland, New Orleans, Detroit, New York City

The Ensemble: Electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals

"We're a rock group. We're noisy, rowdy, sensational and weird."

— Roger Daltrey (1965)
The Who's first live album, *My Generation*



HIP-HOP RAP

The Sound: Rhythmic, unvarnished, adaptable, streetwise

The Roots: Rhythm & blues, soul, funk, reggae


The Pioneers: Afrika Bambaataa, Kool Herc, DJ Hollywood, Grandmaster Flash, Kurtis Blow, Grandmaster Caz

The Places: New York City (South Bronx)

The Ensemble: Vinyl, turntable, vocals

"The beautiful thing about hip-hop is it's the one music collage. You can take any form of music and do it in a hip-hop way and it'll be a hip-hop song."

— Kool Herc (1979)
Hip-hop pioneer



LATIN American

The Sound: Syncopated, enthusiastic, diverse, vibrant

The Roots: Spain, Africa, Caribbean, South America


The Pioneers: Arsenio Rodríguez, Machito, Pérez Prado, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Johnny Pacheco

The Places: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Miami, New York

The Ensemble: Congas, bongos, maracas, güiro, guitar, vocals

"The emphasis was dancing and rhythm. I came in with an emphasis on lyrics, telling stories that were familiar to people in Latin America—and everybody thought that was the way."

— Celia Cruz (1960)
Latin music icon



Folk

The Sound: Grassroots, narrative, sincere, lyrical

The Roots: Ballads, immigrant folklore, spirituals, cowboy songs


The Pioneers: Lead Belly, Odetta, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez

The Places: Appalachia, Deep South, Western frontier

The Ensemble: Guitar, banjo, fiddle, accordion, vocals

"I find the rhythms [of folk music]. I find the melodies, time-tested by generations of singers. Above all, I find the words... they speak plainly, straightforward, honest."

— Pete Seeger (1960)
Folk singer



COUNTRY Western

The Sound: Genuine, uncomplicated, nostalgic, informal

The Roots: European ballads, folk and gospel songs


The Pioneers: Uncle Dave Macon, the Carter Family, Jimmie Rodgers, Roy Acuff, Gene Autry, Bill Monroe

The Places: Appalachia, Nashville, Chicago, Western U.S.

The Ensemble: Fiddle, banjo, guitar, harmonica, accordion, vocals

"Country music is three chords and the truth."

— Hank Williams (1951-1953)
Country music icon



CLASSICAL

The Sound: Intricate, polished, structured, harmonious

The Roots: Sacred music, choral chants, madrigals, dance rhythms

The Pioneers: J.S. Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms

The Places: Austria, Germany, France, Italy

The Ensemble: Strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, vocals

"I carry my thoughts about with me a long time... before writing them down. I change many things, discard others, and try again and again until I am satisfied."

— Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Classical music icon



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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Conditional Formatting Format as Table Cell Styles

C15

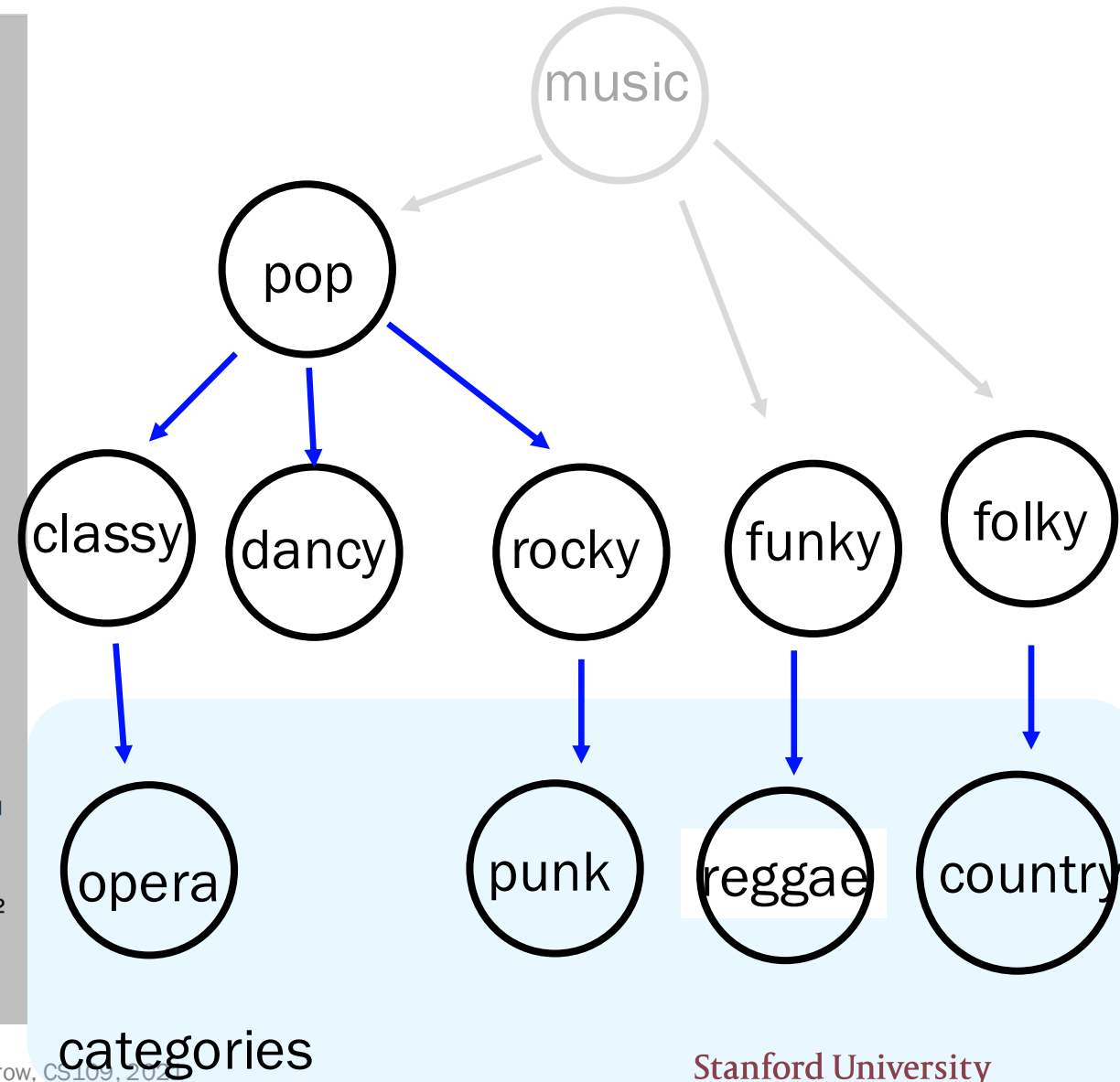
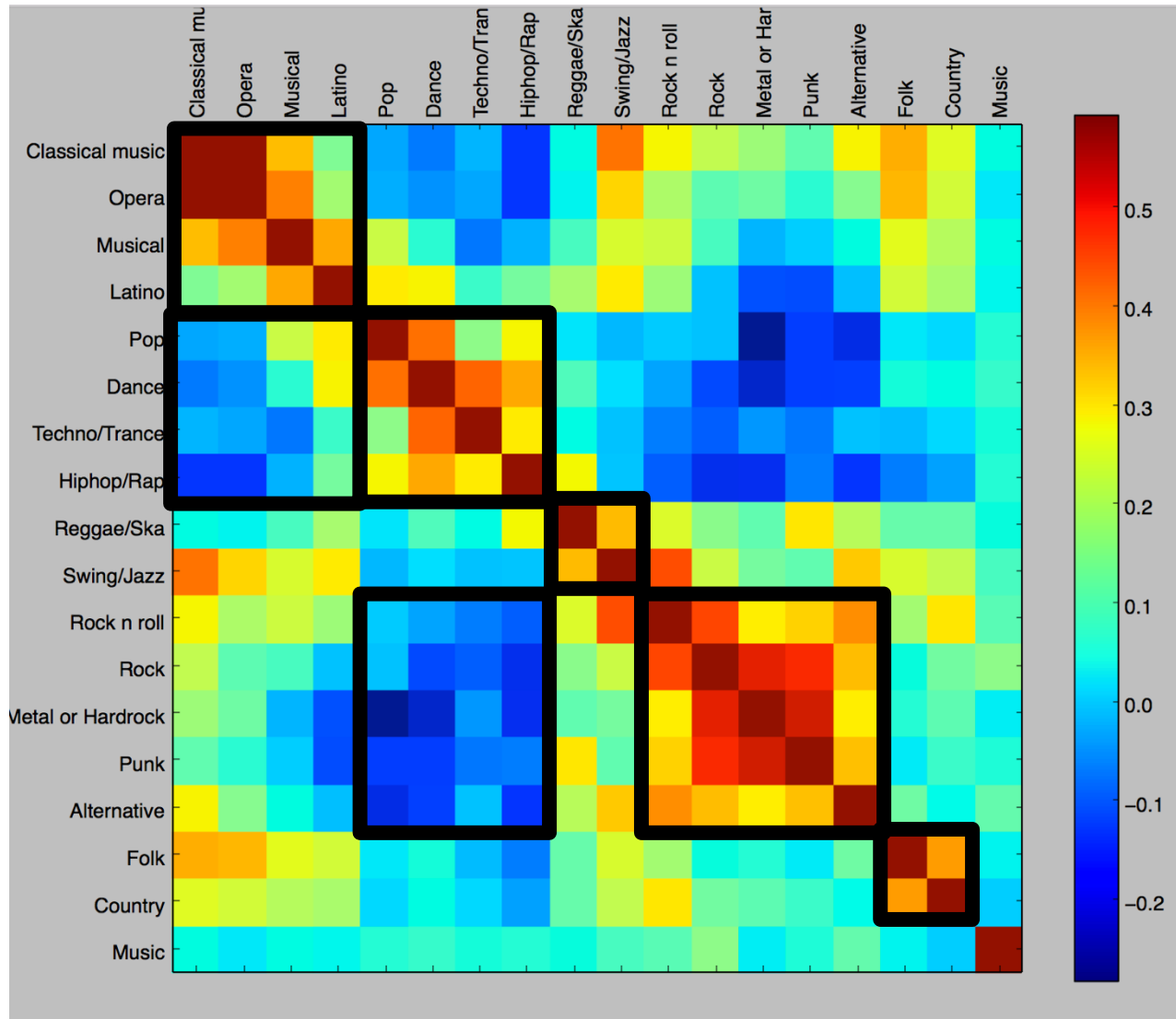
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Music	Dance	Folk	Country	Classical music	Musical	Pop	Rock	Me
2	5	2	1	2	2	1	5	5	
3	4	2	1	1	1	2	3	5	
4	5	2	2	3	4	5	3	5	
5	5	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	
6	5	4	3	2	4	3	5	3	
7	5	2	3	2	3	3	2	5	
8	5	5	3	1	2	2	5	3	
9	5	3	2	1	2	2	4	5	
10	5	3	1	1	2	4	3	5	
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12	5	3	2	1	2	3	4	3	
13	5	1	1	1	4	1	2	5	
14	5	1	2	1	4	3	3	5	
15	5	5	3	2	1	5	5	2	
16	5	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	
17	1	2	2	3	4	3	3	5	
18	5	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	
19	5	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	
20	5	5	4	3	4	5	5	4	
21	5	3	3	2	4	2	2	4	
22	5	3	2	3	4	3	2	5	
23	5	1	1	3	2	2	2	5	
24	5	3	2	3	3	3	4		
25	5	4	2	2	2	4	4	5	
26	5	3	1	1	4	3	3	5	
27	5	4	2	1	2	3	5	1	
28	5	5	5	4	5	3	4	4	
29	4	3	4	1	3	2	2	4	
30	5	5	1	1	1	1	3	4	
31	5	3	4	2	3	3	3	4	
32	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	
33	4	4	1	3	2	3	5	3	
34	5	3	1	3	2	3	3	4	
35	5	2	2	3	4	5	4	3	

music +

Ready

100%

From Correlation to Bayes Net!



Why is it harder to
find independences
here than for bat DNA
expression?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Music	Dance	Folk	Country	Classical music	Musical	Pop	Rock	Me
2		5	2	1	2	2	1	5	5
3		4	2	1	1	1	2	3	5
4		5	2	2	3	4	5	3	5
5		5	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
6		5	4	3	2	4	3	5	3
7		5	2	3	2	3	3	2	5
8		5	5	3	1	2	2	5	3
9		5	3	2	1	2	2	4	5
10		5	3	1	1	2	4	3	5
11		5	2	5	2	2	5	3	5
12		5	3	2	1	2	3	4	3
13		5	1	1	1	4	1	2	5
14		5	1	2	1	4	3	3	5
15		5	5	3	2	1	5	5	2
16		5	2	1	1	2	3	4	5
17		1	2	2	3	4	3	3	5
18		5	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
19		5	3	3	3	2	2	4	4
20		5	5	4	3	4	5	5	4
21		5	3	3	2	4	2	2	4
22		5	3	2	3	4	3	2	5
23		5	1	1	3	2	2	2	5
24		5	3	2	3	3	3	4	
25		5	4	2	2	2	4	4	5
26		5	3	1	1	4	3	3	5
27		5	4	2	1	2	3	5	1
28		5	5	5	4	5	3	4	4
29		4	3	4	1	3	2	2	4
30		5	5	1	1	1	1	3	4
31		5	3	4	2	3	3	3	4
32		4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
33		4	4	1	3	2	3	5	3
34		5	3	1	3	2	3	3	4
35		5	2	2	3	4	5	4	3

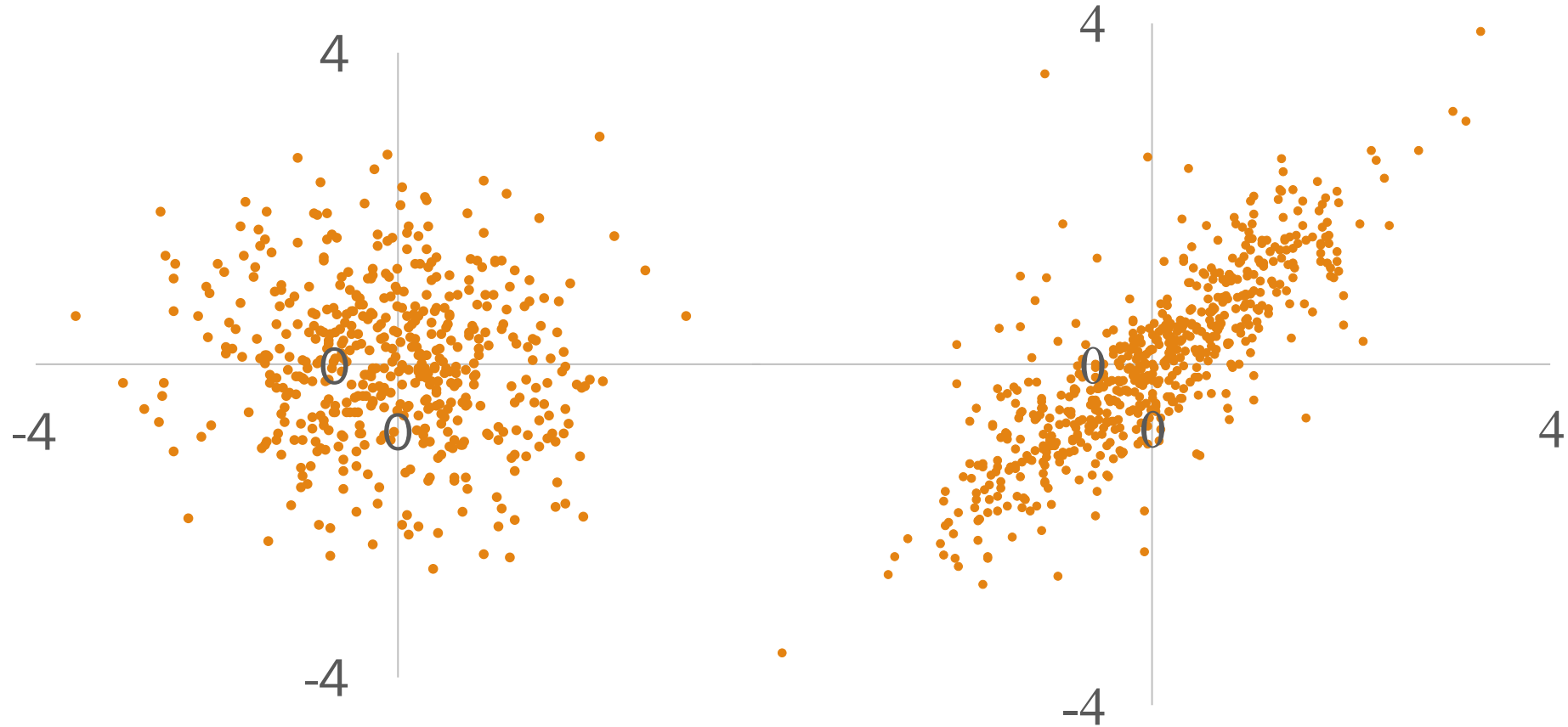
Bat Data

Gene1	Gene2	Gene3	Gene4	Gene5	Trait
TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE
TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE
FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
...					
TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE

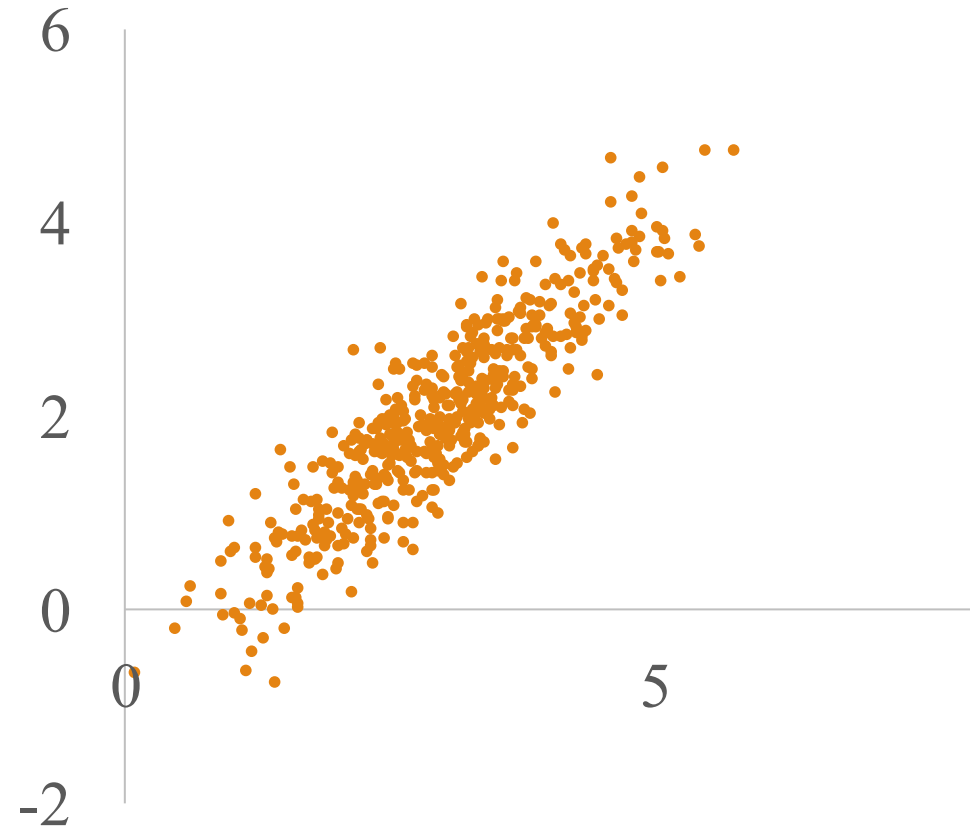
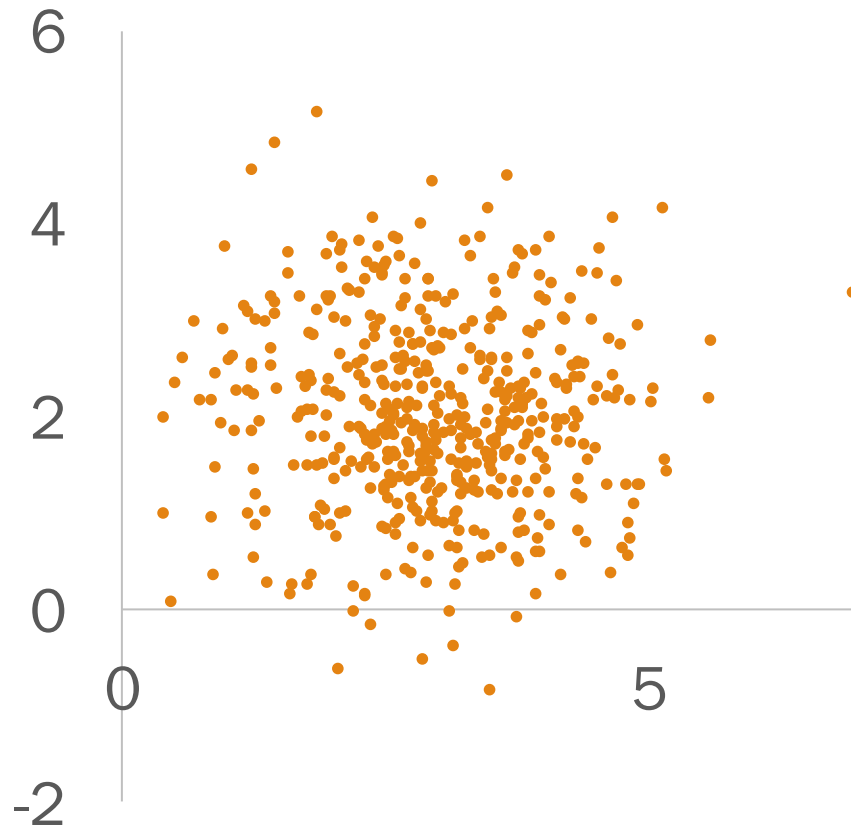
Expression Amount

Gene5	Trait
0.76	0.83
0.94	0.85
0.82	0.03
0.94	0.32
0.50	0.10
0.40	0.53
0.90	0.67
0.29	0.71
0.72	0.25
0.15	0.24
0.79	0.98
0.68	0.77
0.71	0.37
0.36	0.18
0.62	0.08
0.59	0.38
0.82	0.76

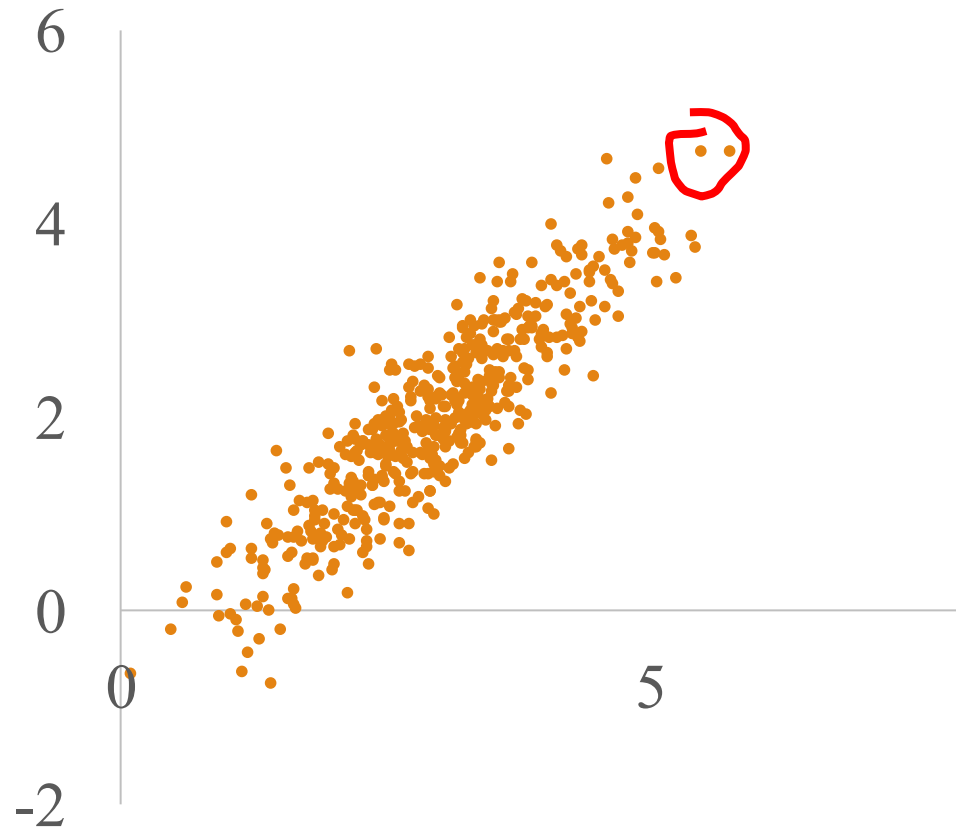
Spot The Difference



Spot The Difference



Vary Together

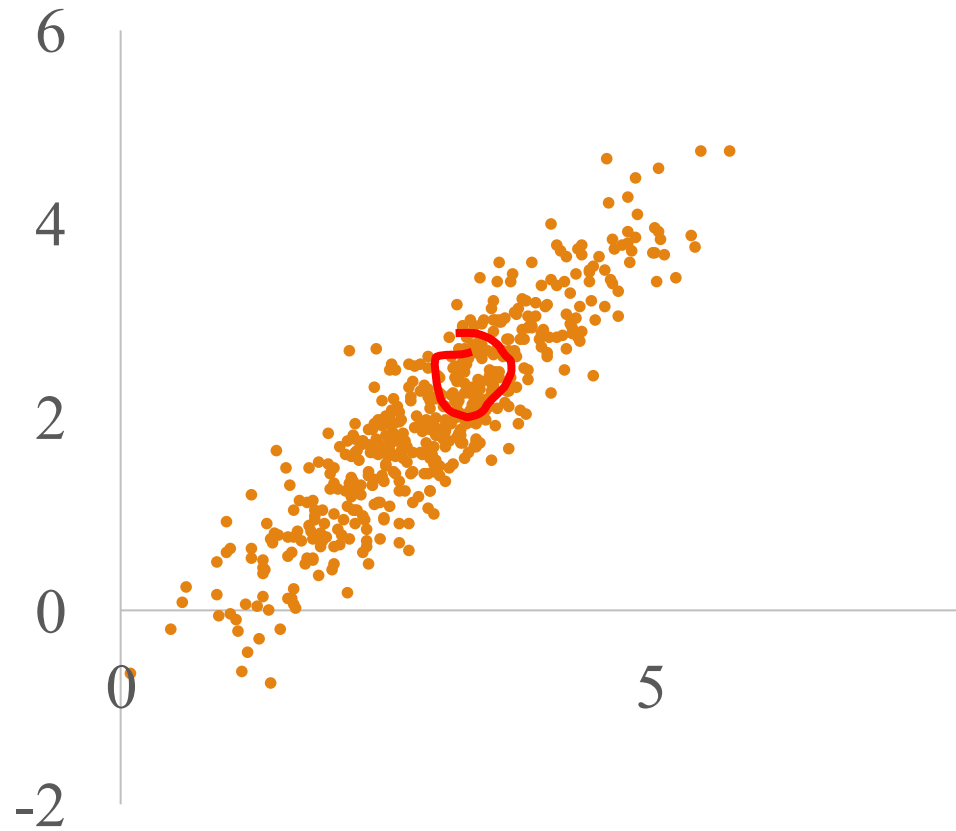


$$x - E[x] = \underline{3}$$

$$y - E[y] = \underline{2.6}$$

$$(x - E[x])(y - E[y]) = 7.8$$

Vary Together

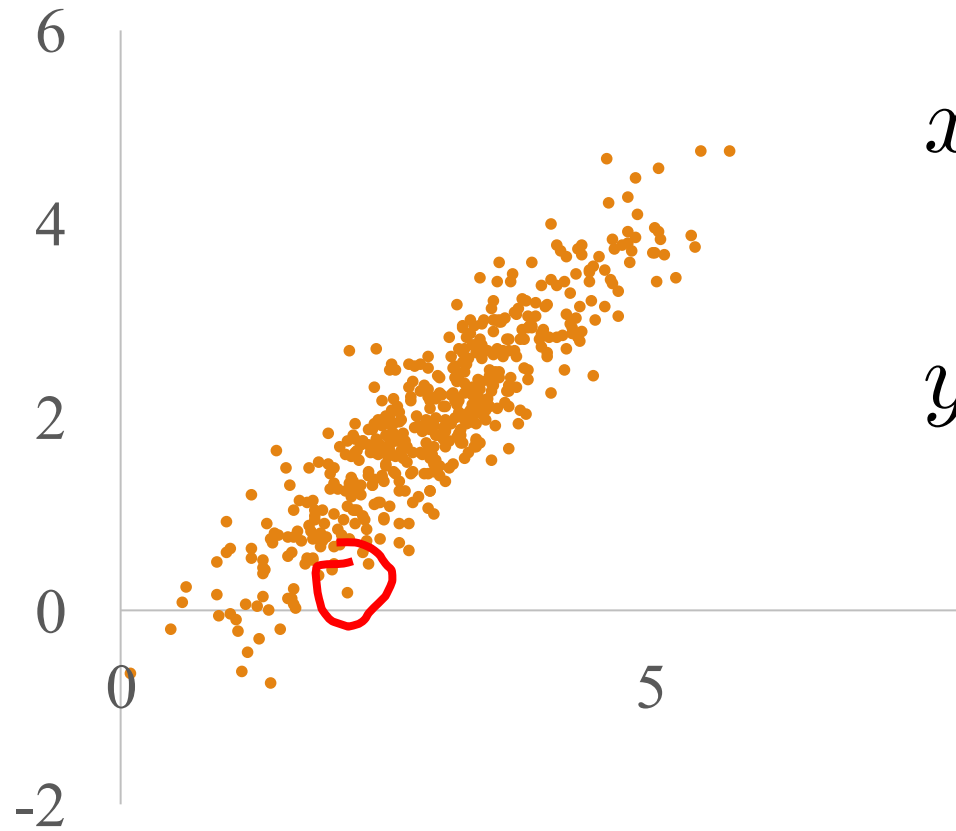


$$x - E[x] \approx 0$$

$$y - E[y] \approx 0$$

$$(x - E[x])(y - E[y]) = 0$$

Vary Together

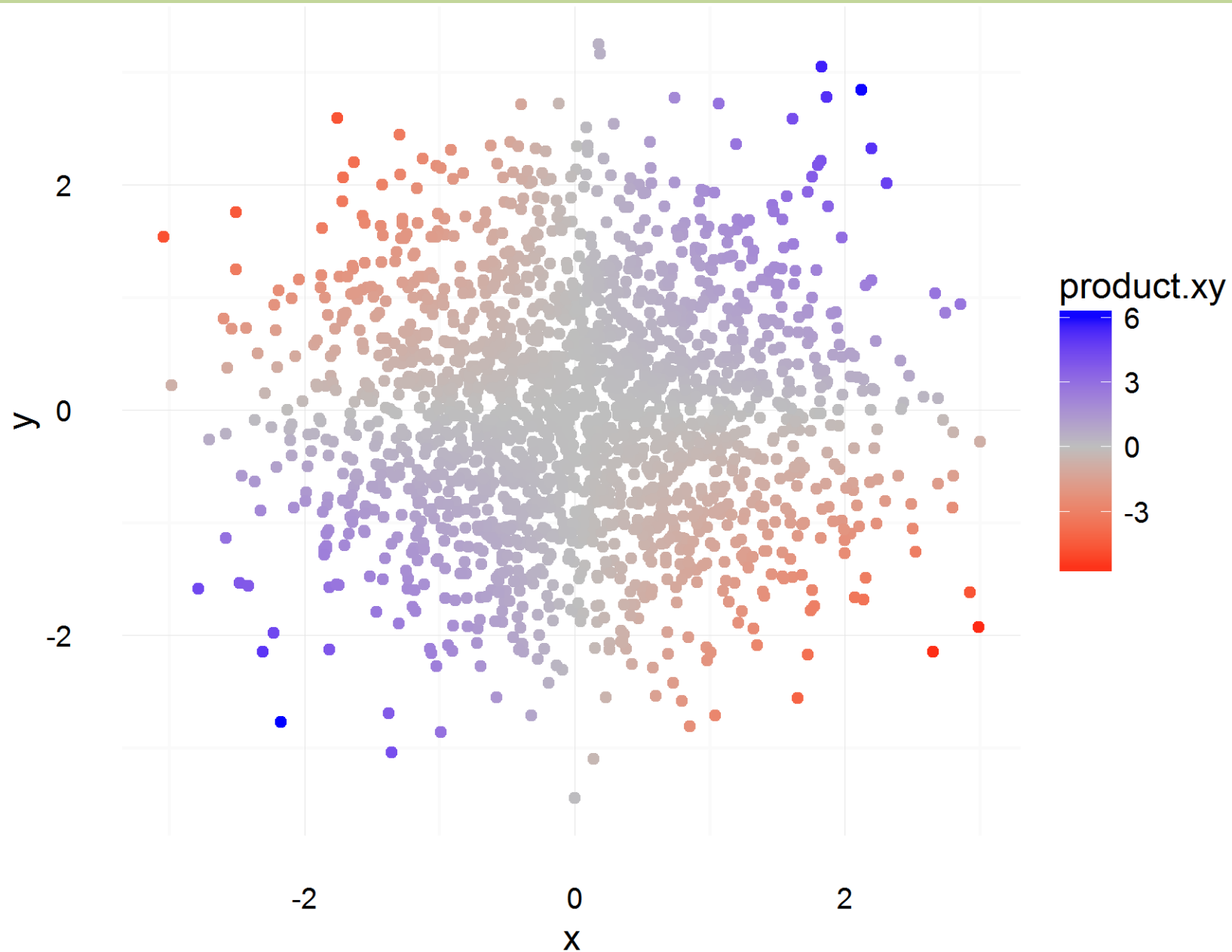


$$x - E[x] = -1.1$$

$$y - E[y] = -2.8$$

$$(x - E[x])(y - E[y]) \approx 3.1$$

Understanding Covariance



The Dance of the Covariance

Say X and Y are arbitrary random variables

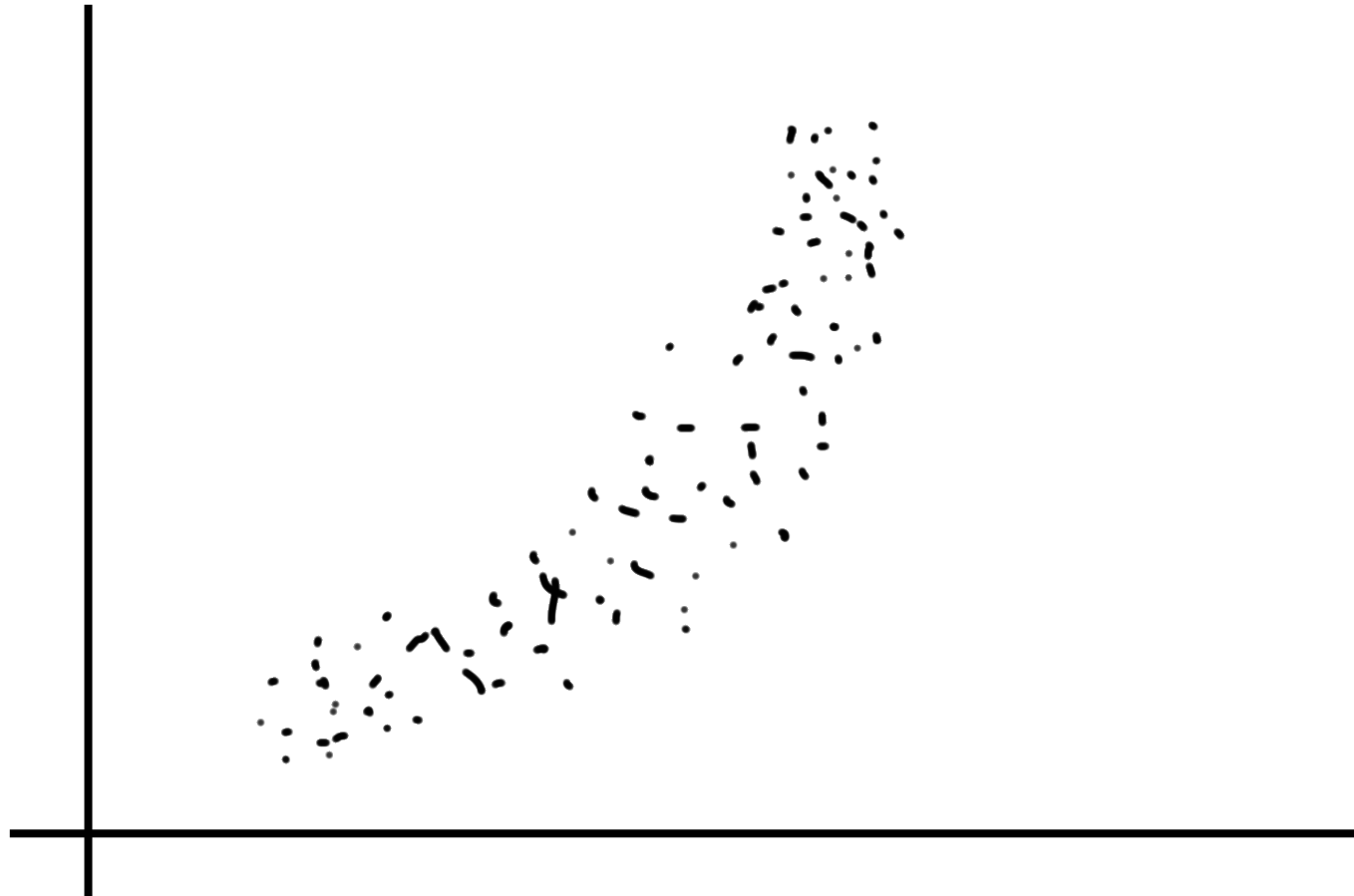
Covariance of X and Y :

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])]$$

x	y	$(x - E[X])(y - E[Y])p(x,y)$
Above mean	Above mean	Positive
Below mean	Below mean	Positive
Below mean	Above mean	Negative
Above mean	Below mean	Negative

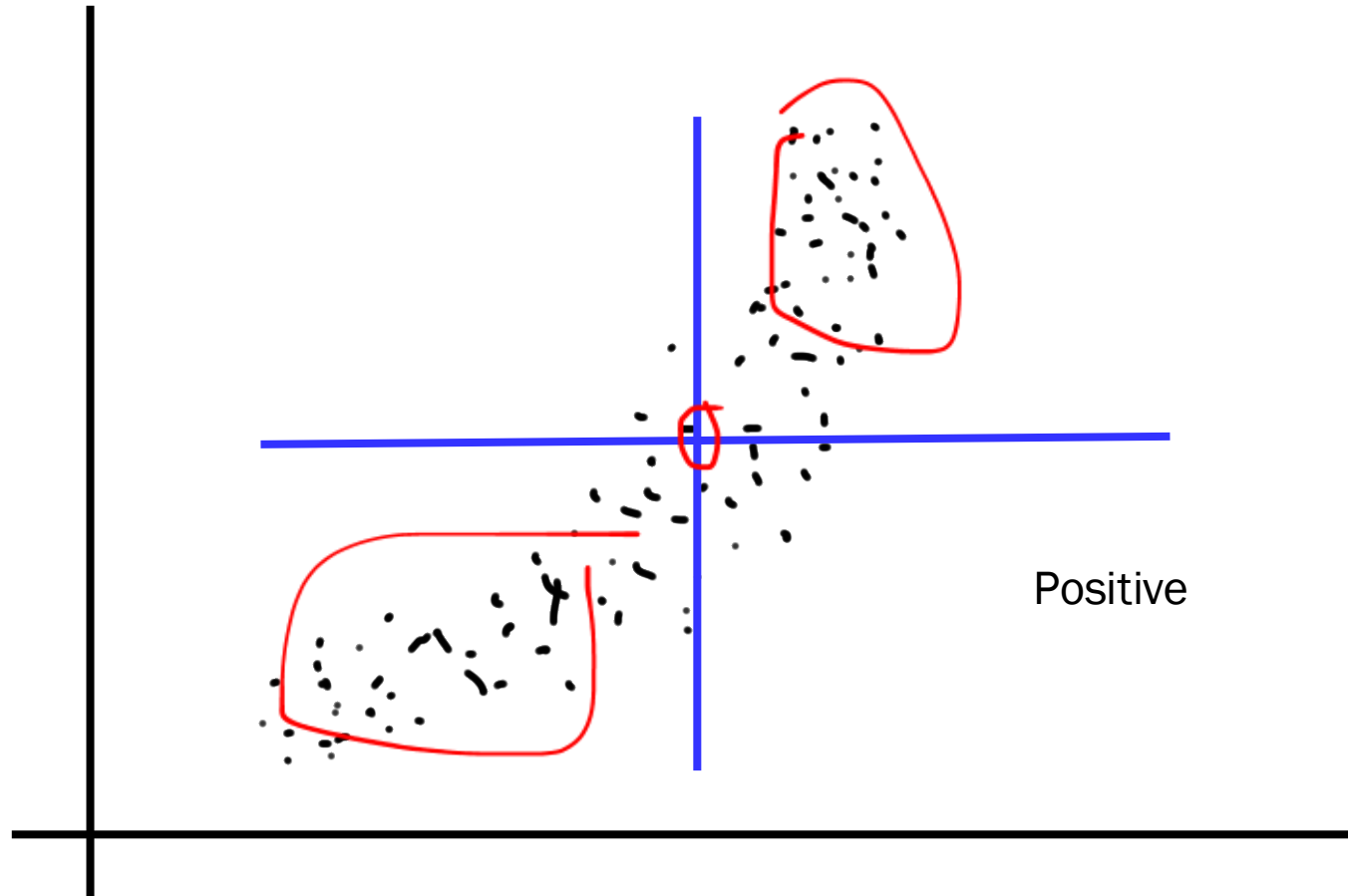
Covariance

Poll: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



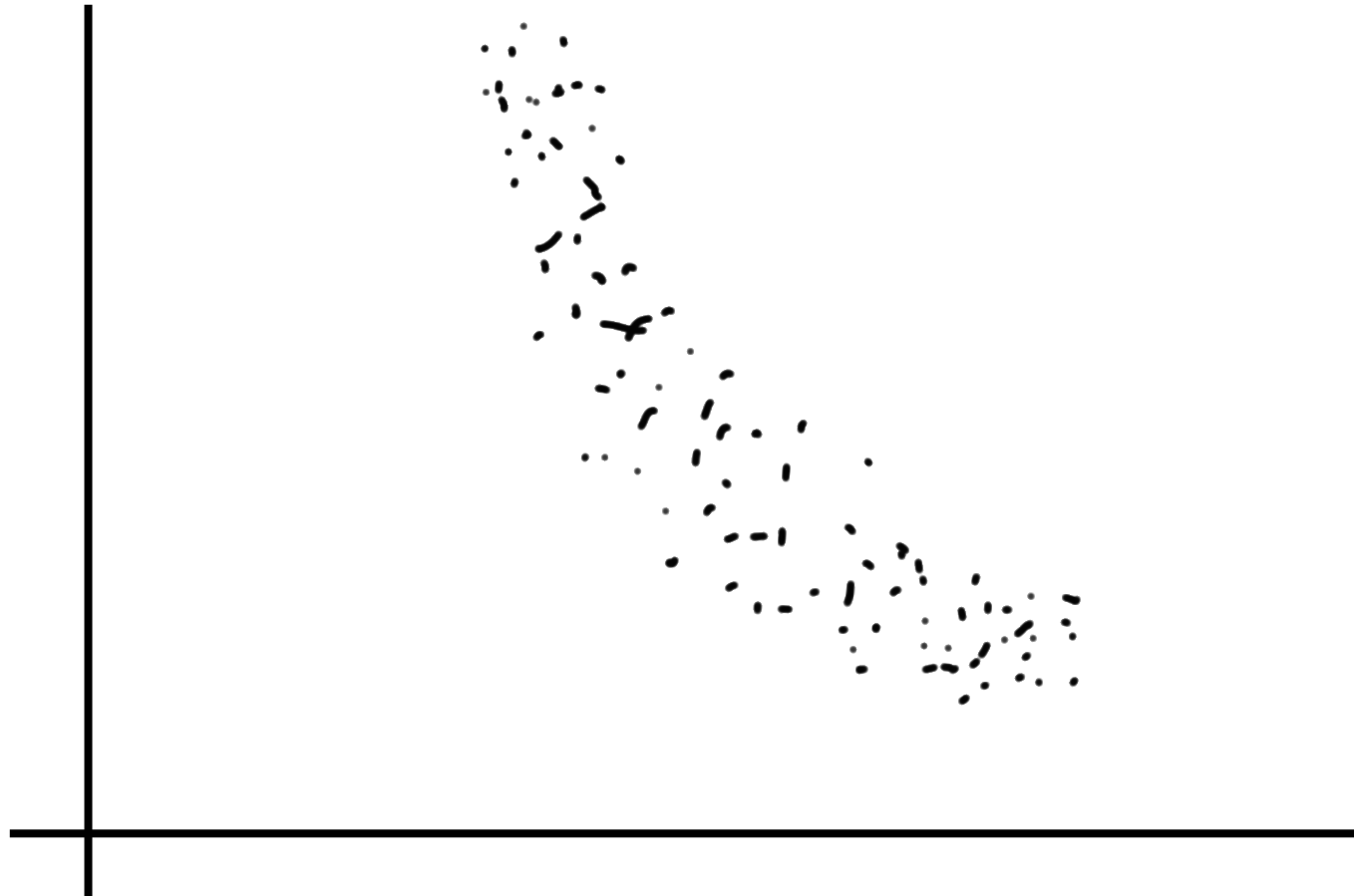
Covariance

Is the Covariance: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



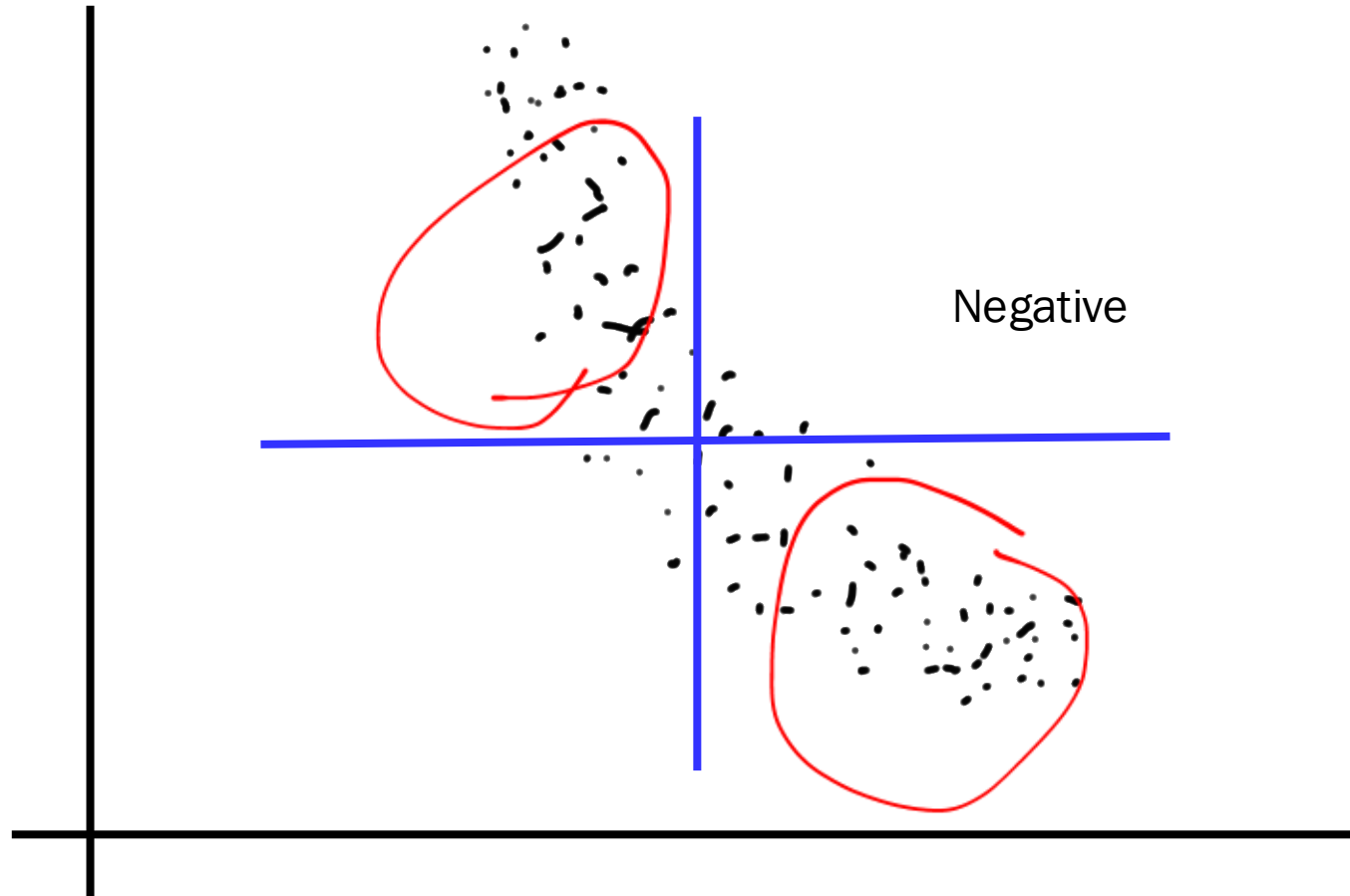
Covariance

Is the Covariance: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



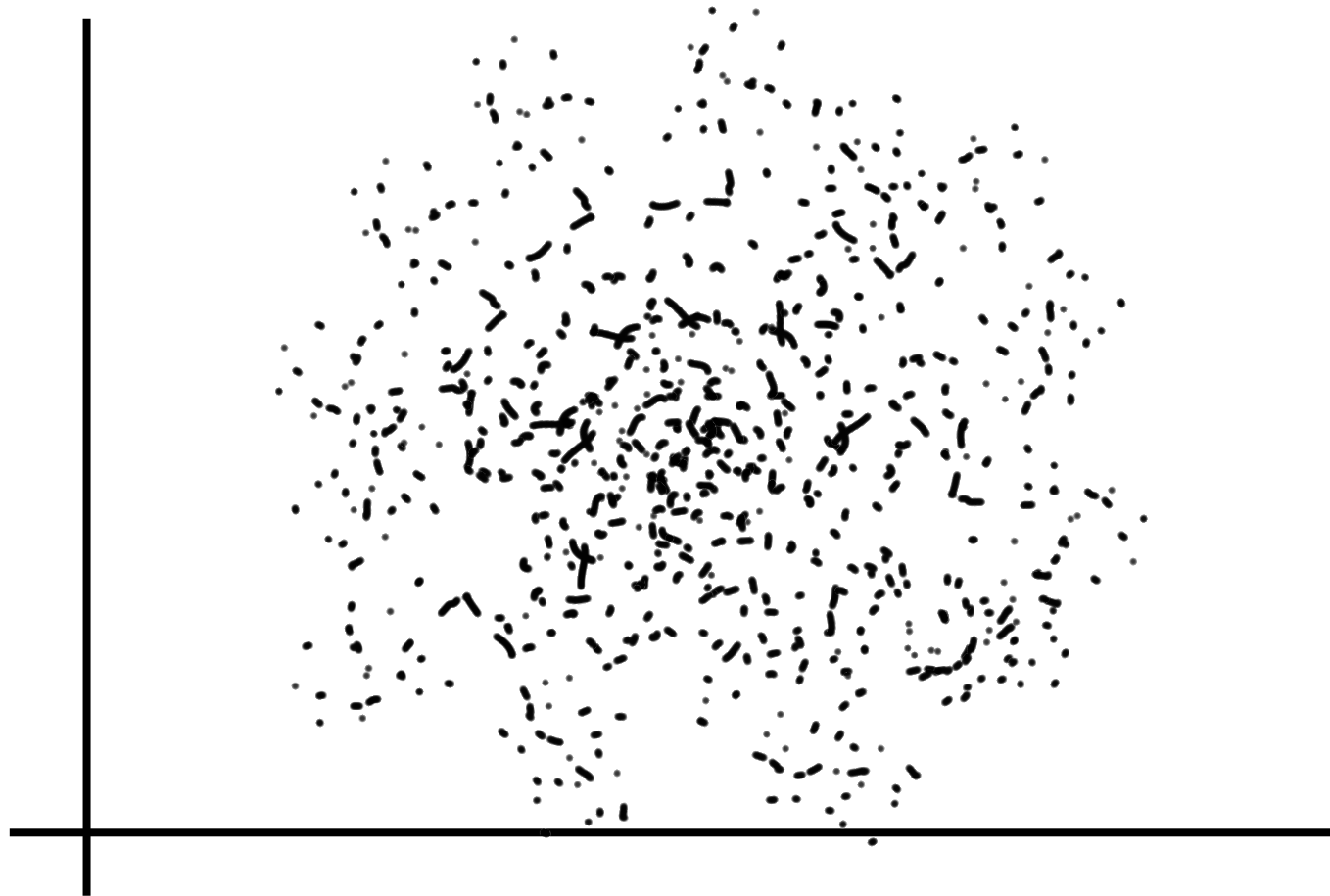
Covariance

Is the Covariance: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



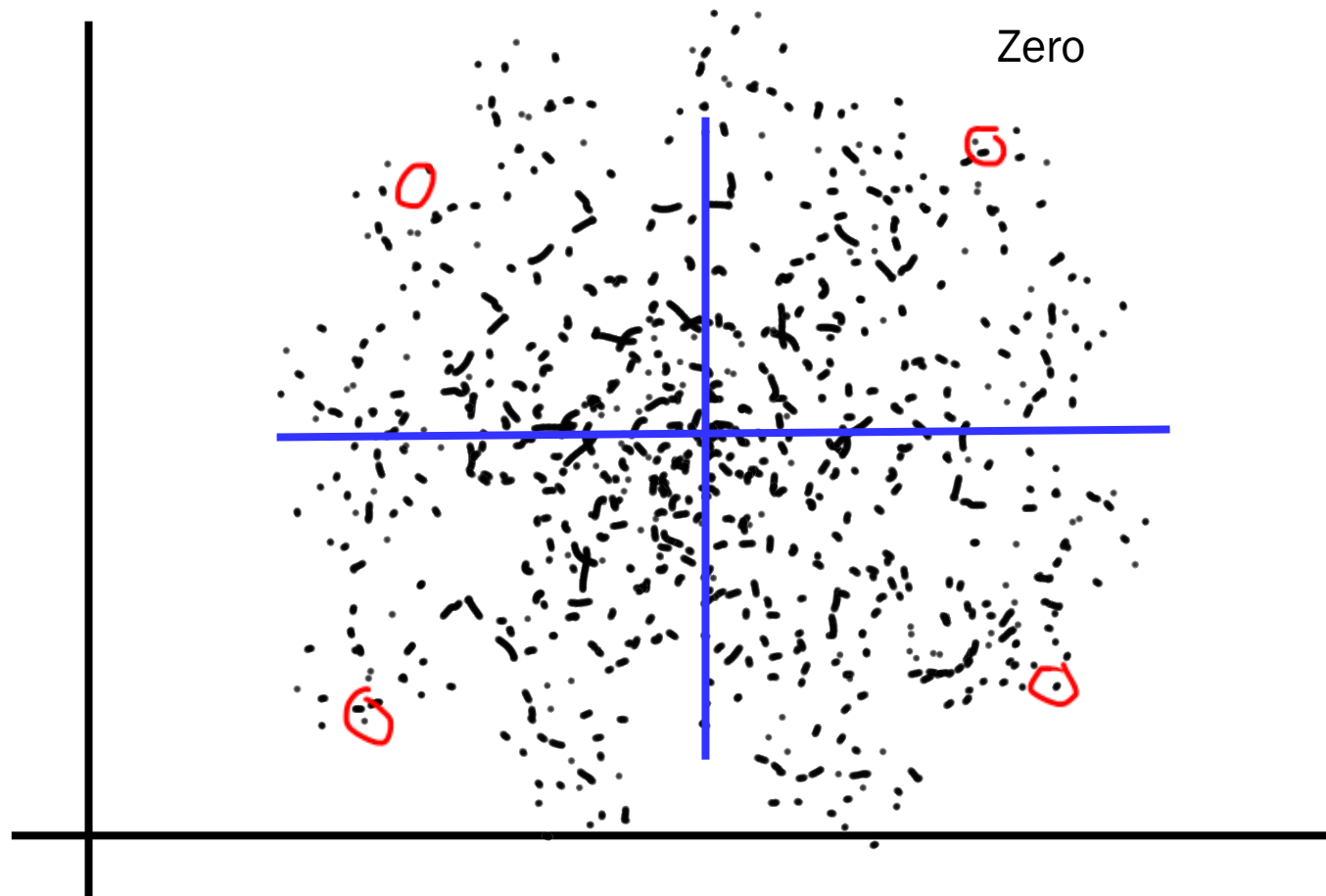
Covariance

Is the Covariance: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



Covariance

Is the Covariance: (a) positive, (b) negative, (c) zero



The Dance of the Covariance

Say X and Y are arbitrary random variables

Covariance of X and Y :

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])]$$

Equivalently:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E[XY - E[X]Y - XE[Y] + E[Y]E[X]] \\ &= E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] - E[X]E[Y] + E[X]E[Y] \\ &= E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]\end{aligned}$$

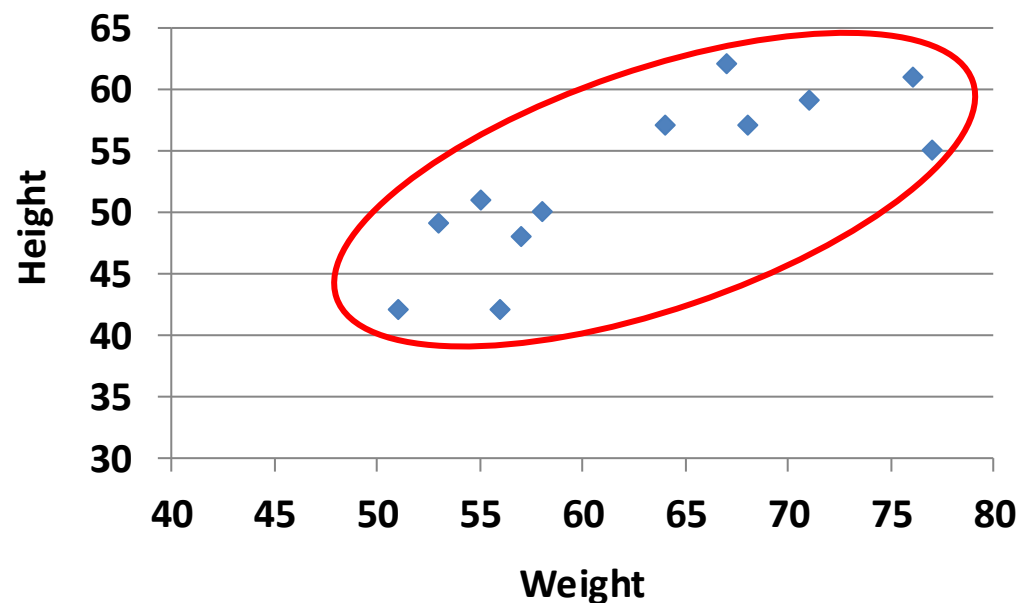
- X and Y independent $\rightarrow \text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$
- But $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$ does **not** imply X and Y independent!

Covariance and Data

Consider the following data:

Weight	Height	Weight * Height
64	57	3648
71	59	4189
53	49	2597
67	62	4154
55	51	2805
58	50	2900
77	55	4235
57	48	2736
56	42	2352
51	42	2142
76	61	4636
68	57	3876

$$\begin{array}{lll} E[W] & E[H] & E[W*H] \\ = 62.75 & = 52.75 & = 3355.83 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(W, H) &= E[W*H] - E[W]E[H] \\ &= 3355.83 - (62.75)(52.75) \\ &= 45.77 \end{aligned}$$

Correlation

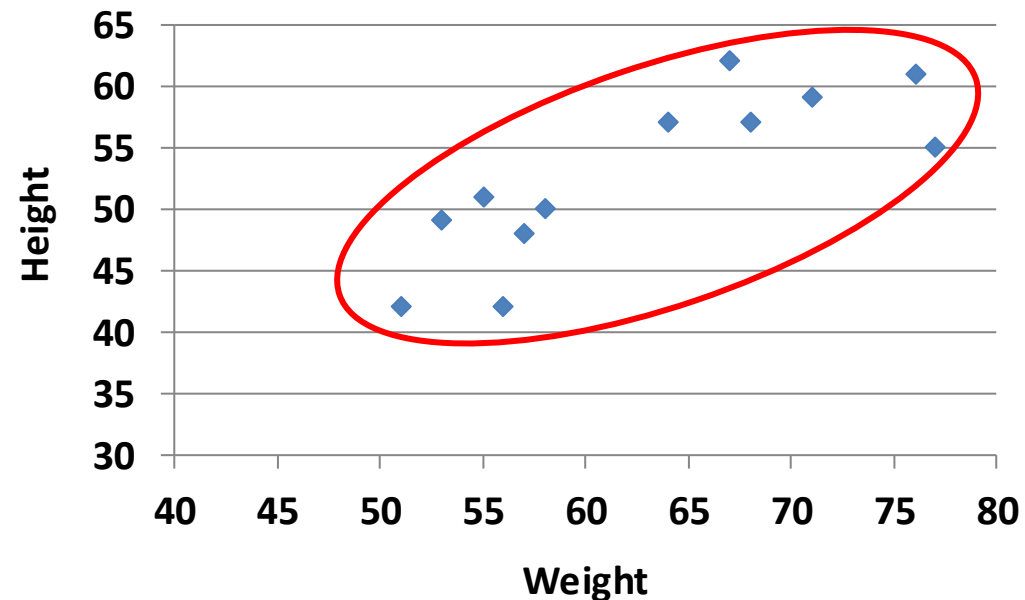
What is Wrong With This?

Consider the following data:

Weight	Height	Weight * Height
64	57	3648
71	59	4189
53	49	2597
67	62	4154
55	51	2805
58	50	2900
77	55	4235
57	48	2736
56	42	2352
51	42	2142
76	61	4636
68	57	3876

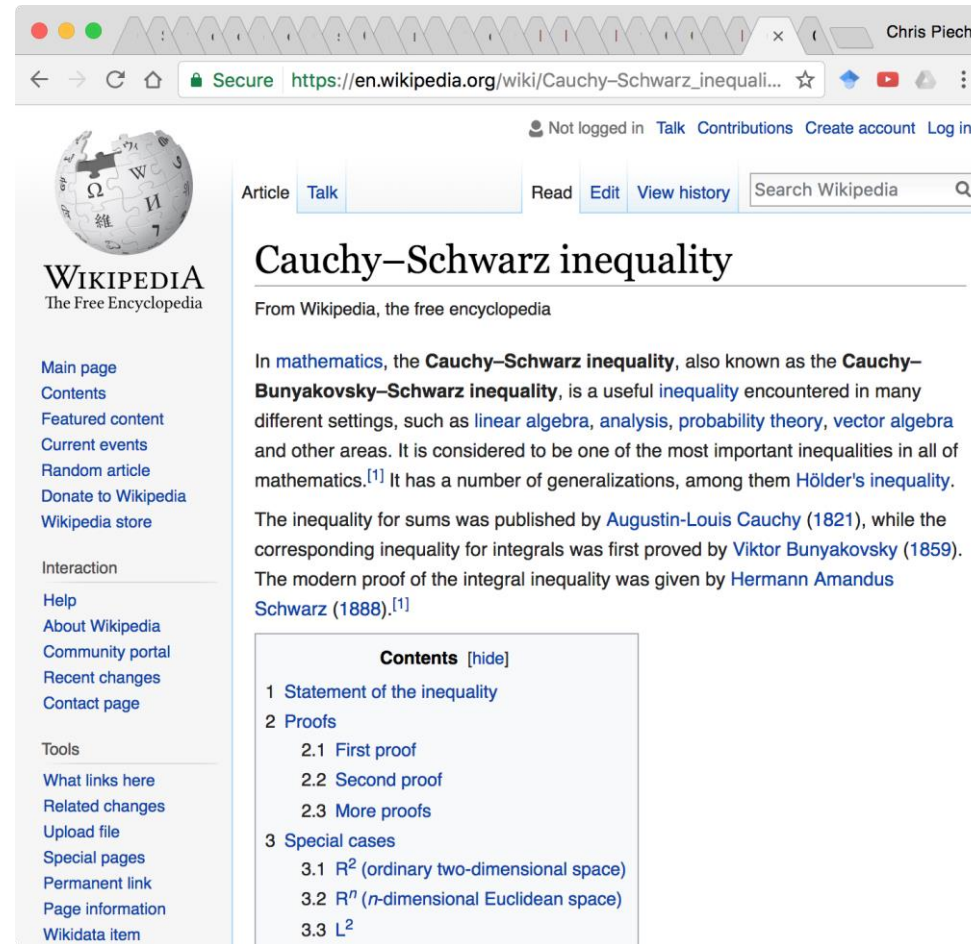
$$\begin{aligned} E[W] &= 62.75 \\ E[H] &= 52.75 \end{aligned}$$

$$E[W*H] = 3355.83$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(W, H) &= E[W*H] - E[W]E[H] \\ &= 3355.83 - (62.75)(52.75) \\ &= 45.77 \end{aligned}$$

Cauchy Schwarz, a great way to normalize!



$$-\text{Std}(X)\text{Std}(Y) \leq \text{Cov}(X, Y) \leq \text{Std}(X)\text{Std}(Y)$$

Viva La Correlación

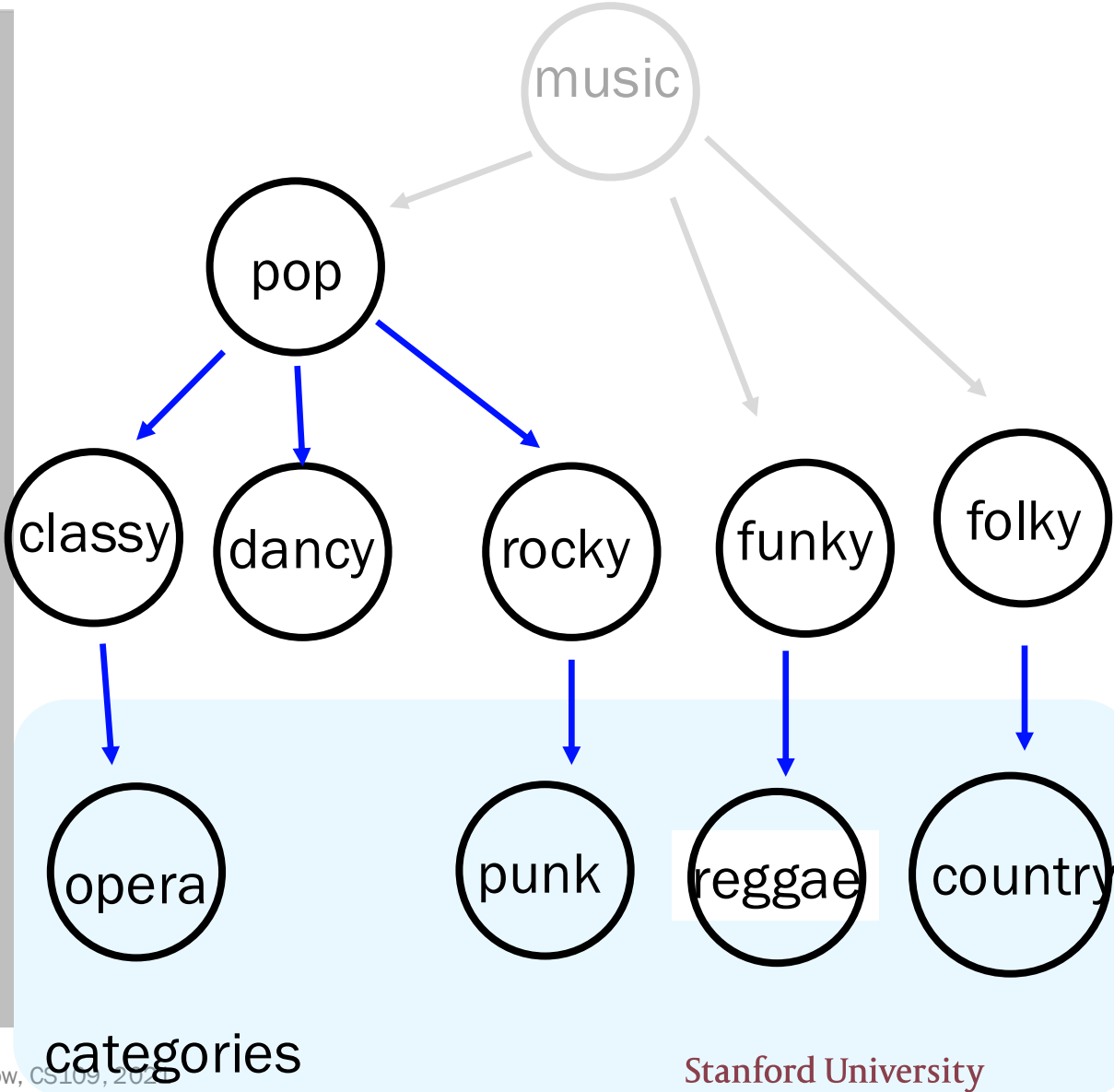
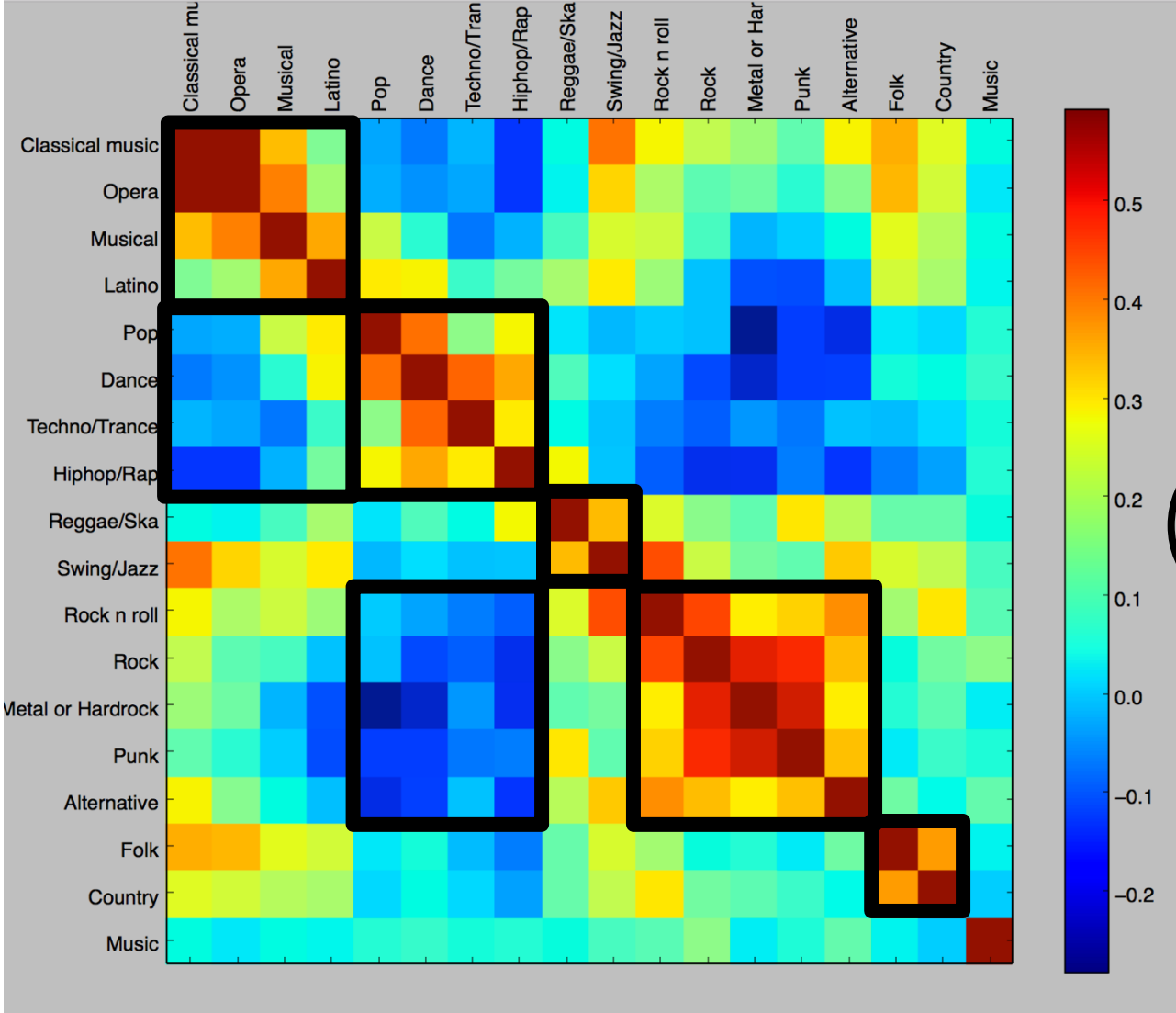
Say X and Y are arbitrary random variables

- Correlation of X and Y , denoted $\rho(X, Y)$:

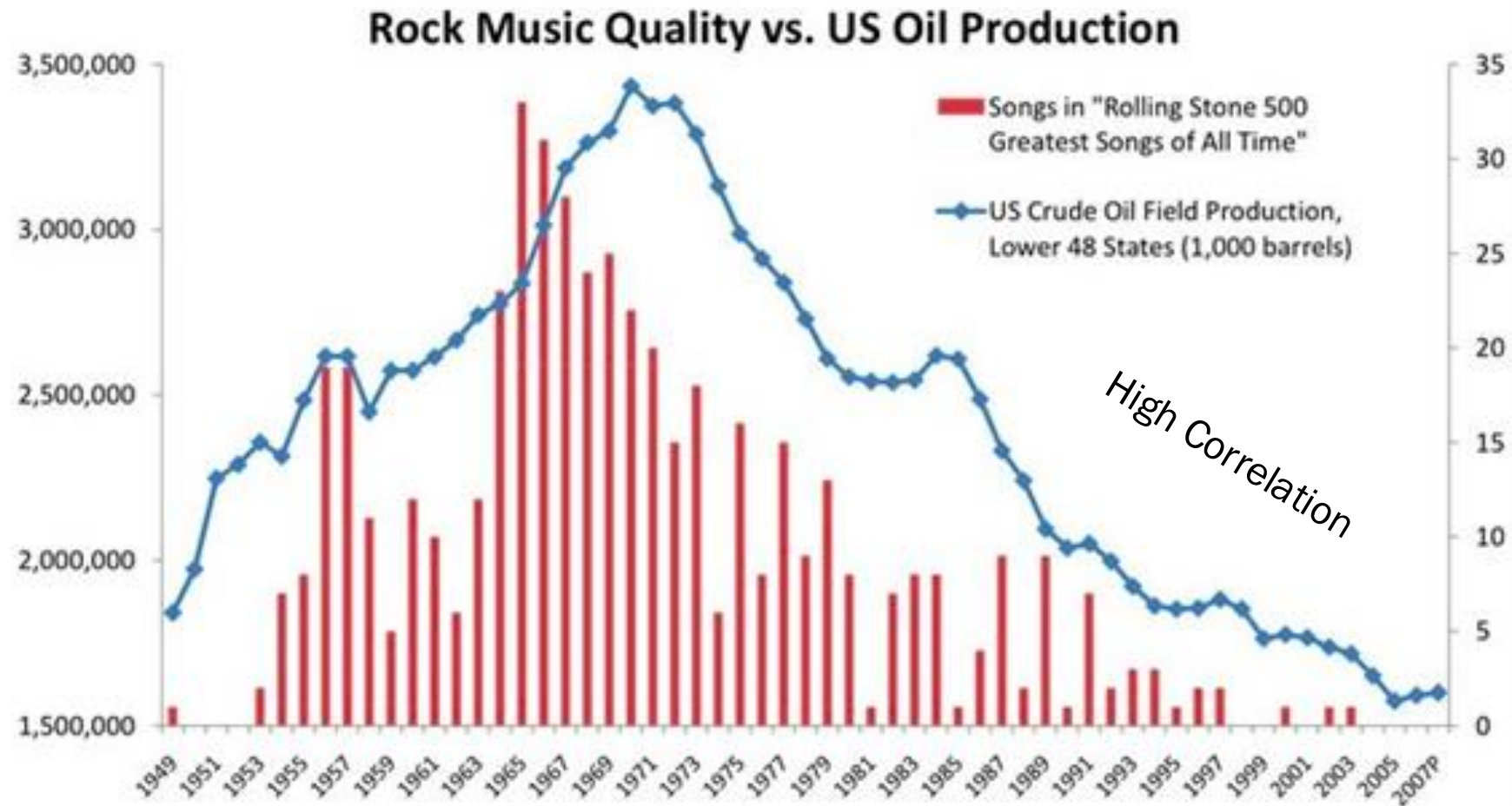
$$\underline{\rho}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}}$$

- Note: $-1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1$
- $\rho(X, Y) = 1 \quad \Rightarrow$ perfectly correlated
- $\rho(X, Y) = -1 \quad \Rightarrow$ perfectly negatively correlated
- $\rho(X, Y) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow$ absence of linear relationship
 - But, X and Y can still be related in some other way!
- If $\rho(X, Y) = 0$, we say X and Y are “uncorrelated”

Recall: It is a useful starting point



Rock Music Vs Oil?

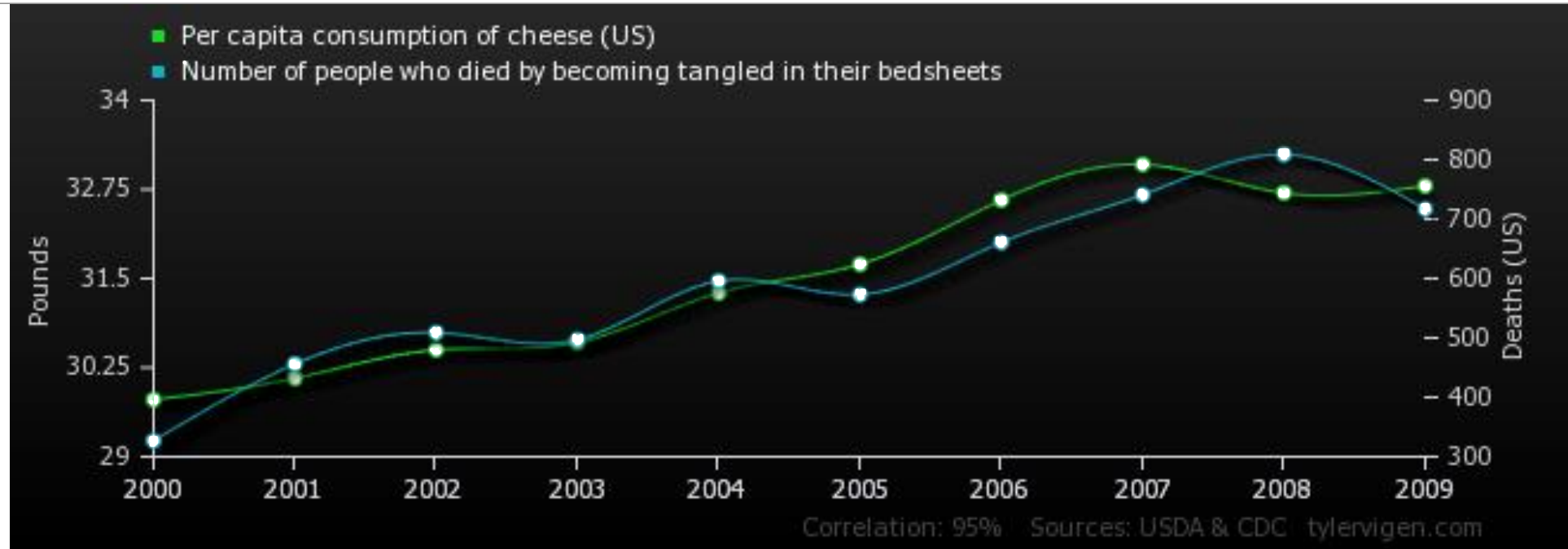


Hubbert Peak Theory

<http://www.aei.org/publication/blog/>

Stanford University

Tell your friends!



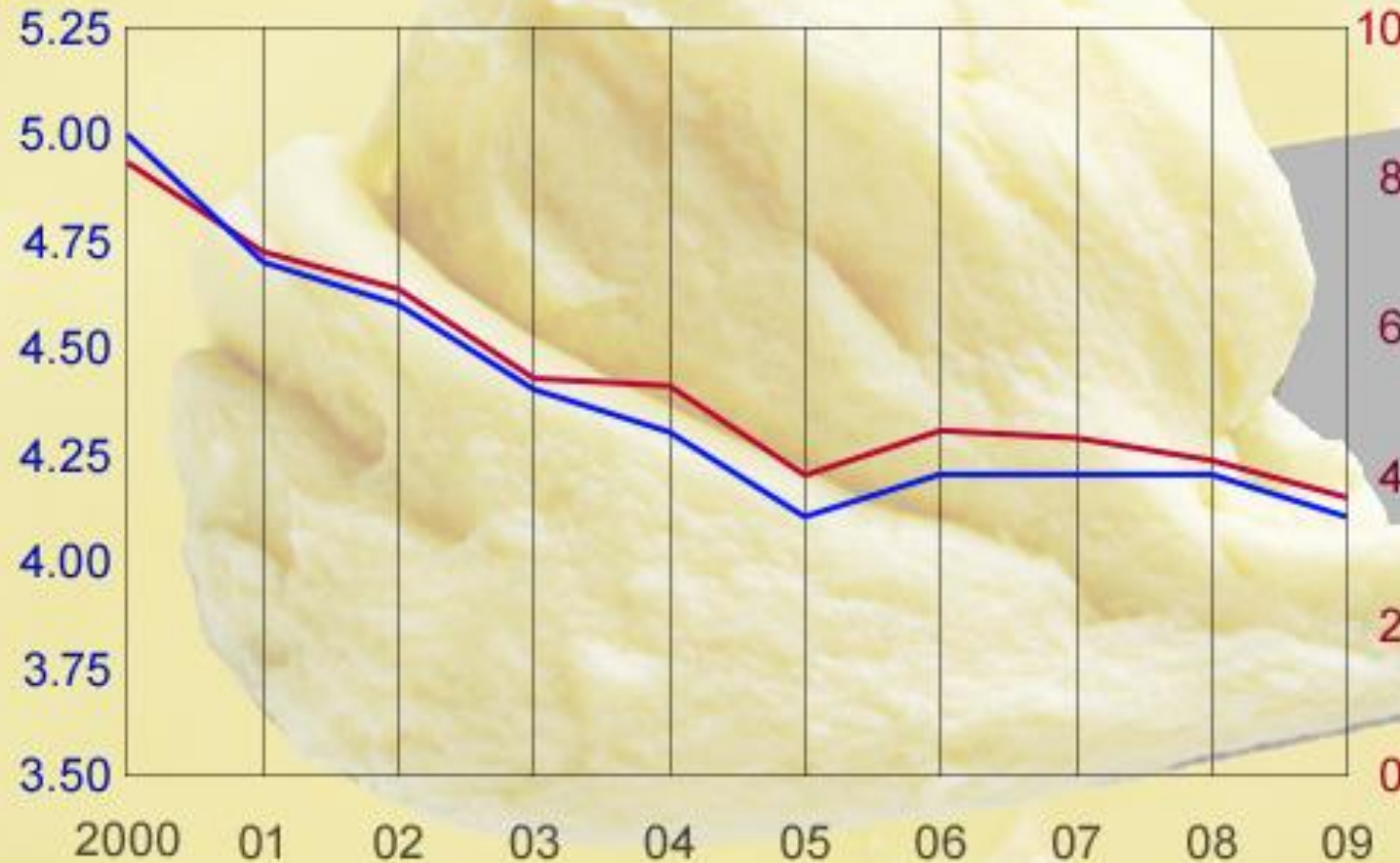
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Per capita consumption of cheese (US) Pounds (USDA)	29.8	30.1	30.5	30.6	31.3	31.7	32.6	33.1	32.7	32.8
Number of people who died by becoming tangled in their bedsheets Deaths (US) (CDC)	327	456	509	497	596	573	661	741	809	717
Correlation: 0.947091										

Divorce Vs Butter?

Divorce rate
in Maine per
1,000 people

Correlation: 99%

Per capita
consumption of
margarine (lbs)



Source: US Census, USDA, tylervigen.com

SPL

Three Guiding Questions

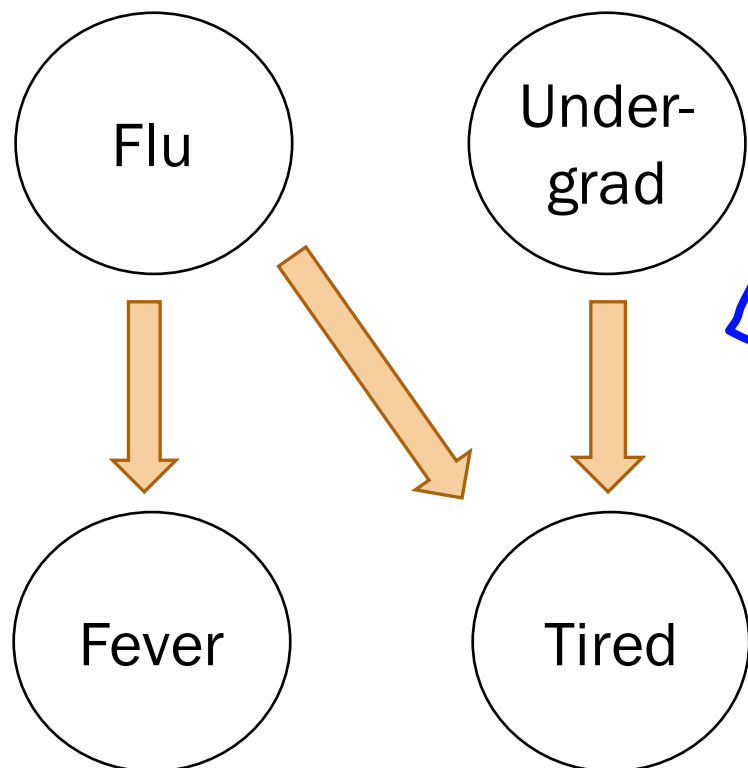
1. How do people actually define large models?
2. How can we do inference in large models?
3. What data can inform the design process?

What haven't we talked about?

Machine Learning (last section of CS109)

$$P(F_{lu} = 1) = 0.1$$

$$P(U = 1) = 0.8$$



1. Learn this from data

2. Learn this from data

$$P(F_{ev} = 1|F_{lu} = 1) = 0.9$$

$$P(F_{ev} = 1|F_{lu} = 0) = 0.05$$

$$P(T = 1|F_{lu} = 0, U = 0) = 0.1$$

$$P(T = 1|F_{lu} = 0, U = 1) = 0.8$$

$$P(T = 1|F_{lu} = 1, U = 0) = 0.9$$

$$P(T = 1|F_{lu} = 1, U = 1) = 1.0$$