



# **3. Probabilistic Graphical Models**

# The Bayes Filter (Rep.)

$$\text{Bel}(x_t) = p(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t, z_t)$$

(Bayes)

$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t, u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) p(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t)$$

(Markov)

$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t) p(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t)$$

(Tot. prob.)

$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t) \int p(x_t \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t, x_{t-1}) \\ p(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) dx_{t-1}$$

(Markov)

$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t) \int p(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) p(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, u_t) dx_{t-1}$$

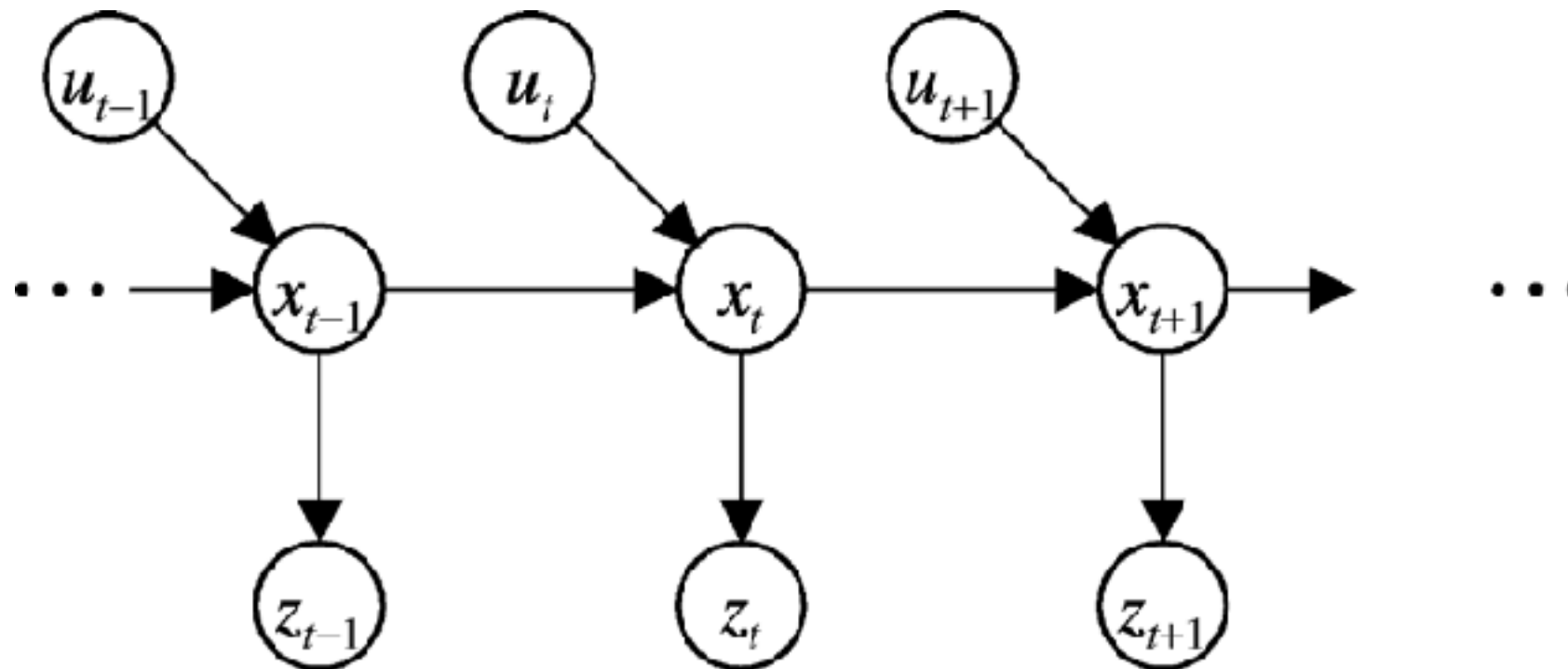
(Markov)

$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t) \int p(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) p(x_{t-1} \mid u_1, z_1, \dots, z_{t-1}) dx_{t-1}$$
$$= \eta \, p(z_t \mid x_t) \int p(x_t \mid u_t, x_{t-1}) \text{Bel}(x_{t-1}) dx_{t-1}$$



# Graphical Representation (Rep.)

We can describe the overall process using a *Dynamic Bayes Network*:



- This incorporates the following Markov assumptions:

$$p(z_t \mid x_{0:t}, u_{1:t}, z_{1:t}) = p(z_t \mid x_t) \quad (\text{measurement})$$

$$p(x_t \mid x_{0:t-1}, u_{1:t}, z_{1:t}) = p(x_t \mid x_{t-1}, u_t) \quad (\text{state})$$



# Definition

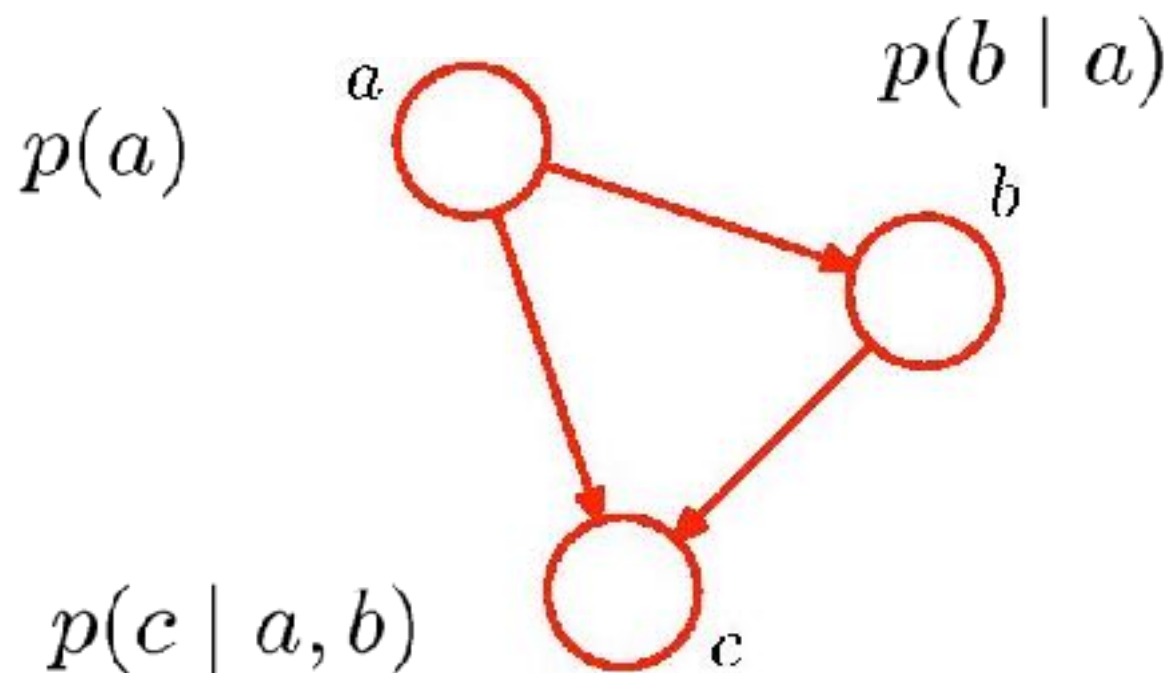
A Probabilistic Graphical Model is a diagrammatic representation of a probability distribution.

- In a Graphical Model, random variables are represented as **nodes**, and statistical dependencies are represented using **edges** between the nodes.
- The resulting graph can have the following properties:
- Cyclic / acyclic
- Directed / undirected
- The simplest graphs are Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG).



# Simple Example

- Given: 3 random variables  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$
- Joint prob:  $p(a, b, c) = p(c|a, b)p(a, b) = p(c|a, b)p(b|a)p(a)$



Random  
variables can be  
discrete or  
continuous

A Graphical Model based on a DAG is called a  
**Bayesian Network**



# Simple Example

- In general:  $K$  random variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K$

- Joint prob:

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

- This leads to a fully connected graph.
- Note: The ordering of the nodes in such a fully connected graph is **arbitrary**. They all represent the joint probability distribution:

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

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

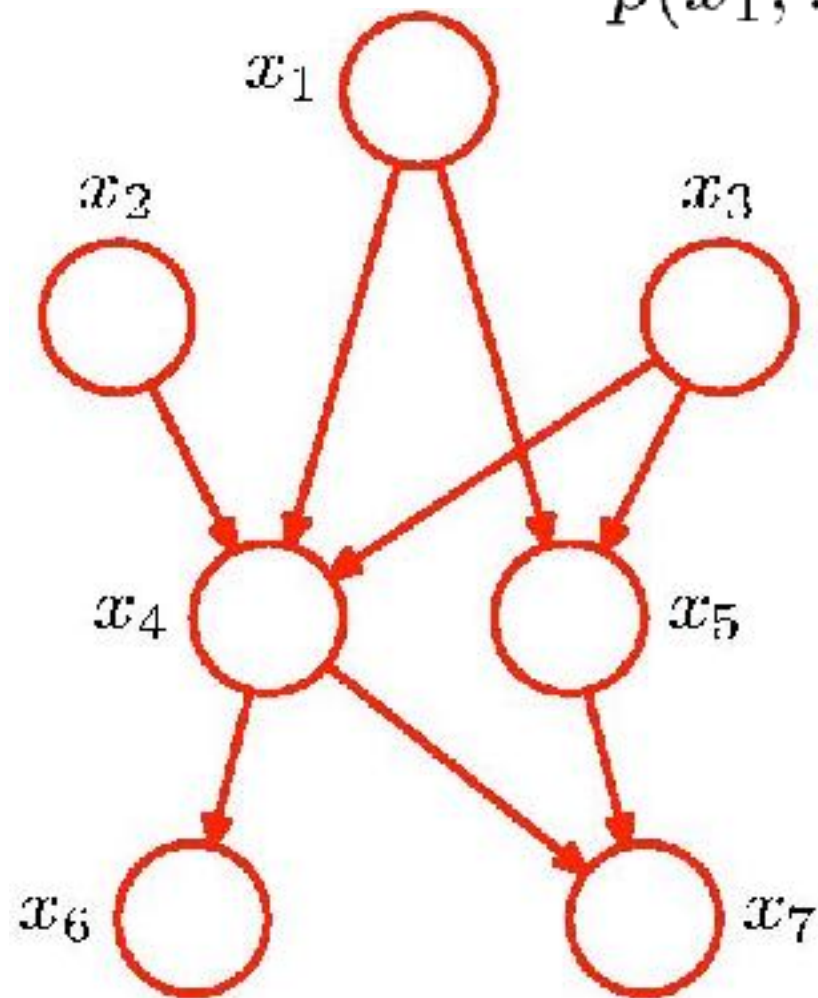
⋮



# Bayesian Networks

Statistical independence can be represented by the **absence** of edges. This makes the computation efficient.

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



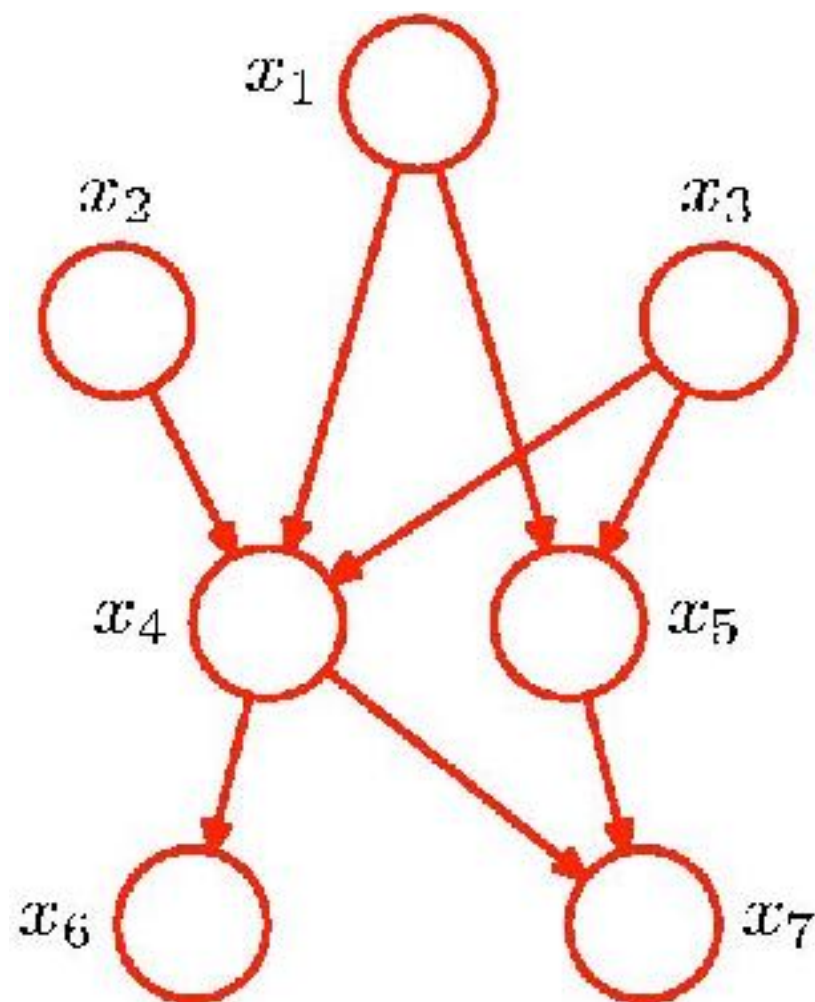
**Intuitively:** only  $x_1$  and  $x_3$  have an influence on  $x_5$





# Bayesian Networks

We can now define a mapping from graphical models to probabilistic formulations (factorisations) and back:



General Factorisation:

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

where

$\text{pa}_k \triangleq$  ancestors of  $x_k$

and

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(x_1, \dots, x_K)$$

**Note:** Many different factorisations (and graphs) can represent the same distribution

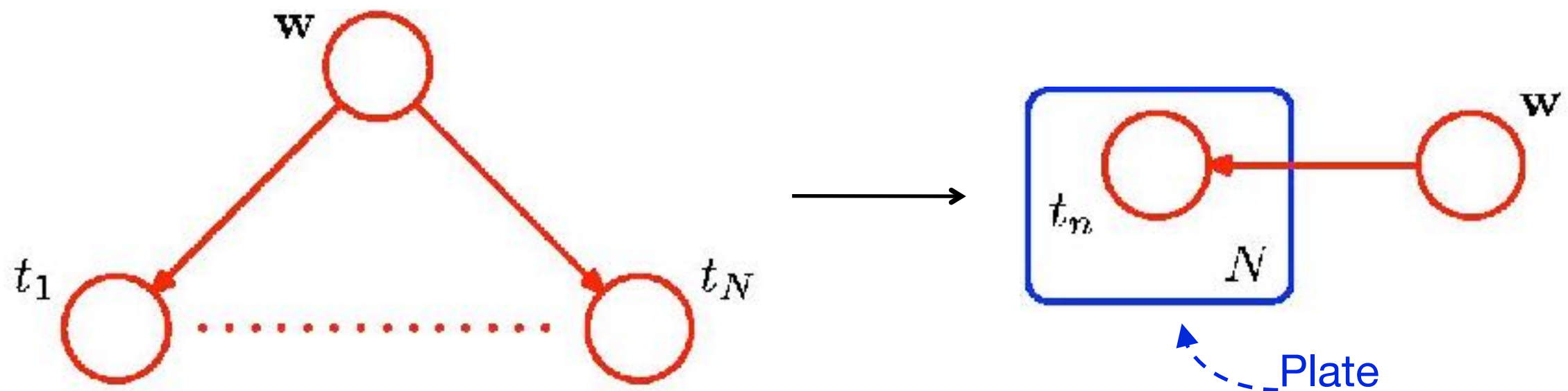




# Elements of Graphical Models

In case of a series of random variables with equal dependencies, we can subsume them using a **plate**:

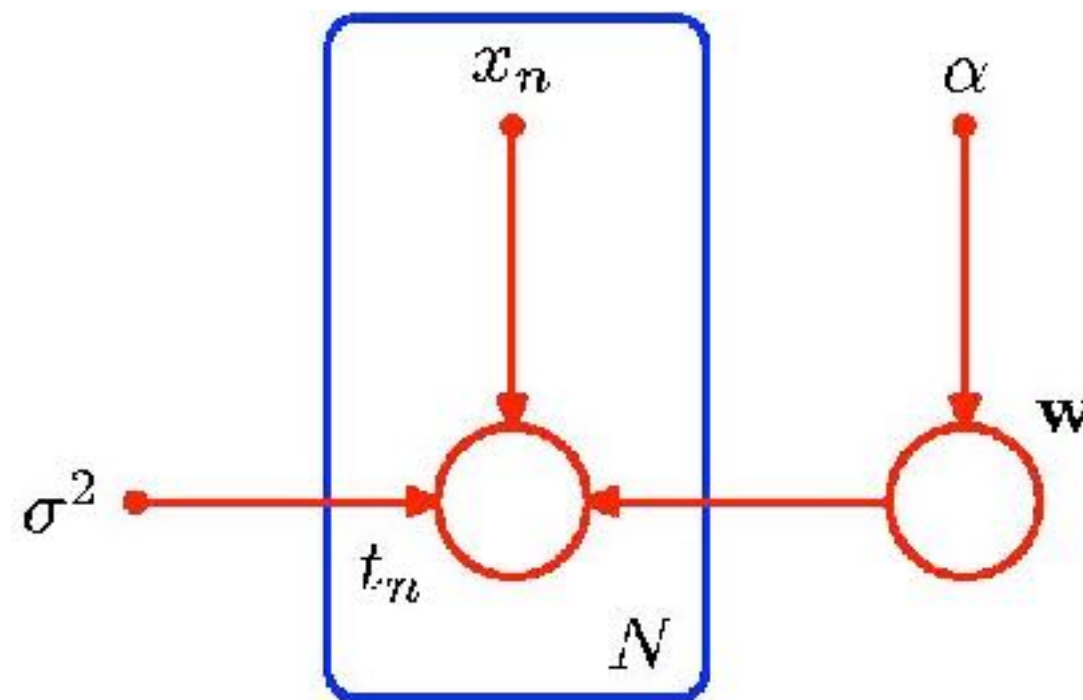
$$p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w}) = p(\mathbf{w}) \prod_{n=1}^N p(t_n | \mathbf{w})$$



# Elements of Graphical Models (2)

We distinguish between **input** variables and explicit **hyper-parameters**:

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

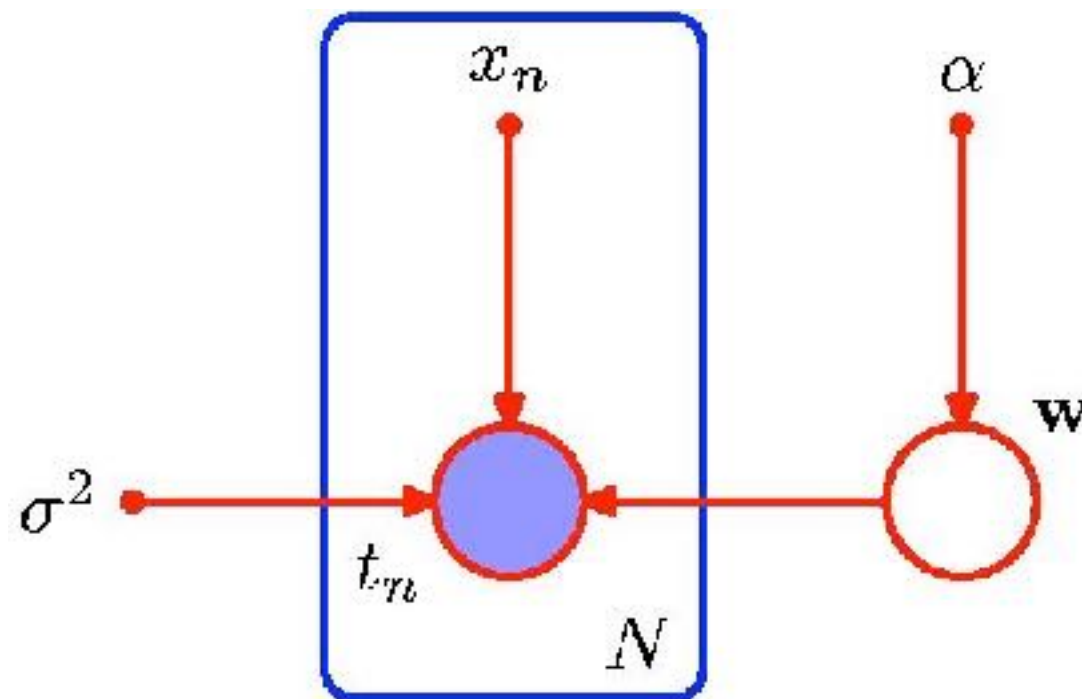


# Elements of Graphical Models (3)

We distinguish between **observed** variables and **hidden** variables:

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

(deterministic parameters omitted in formula)



# Example: Regression as a Graphical Model

Aim: Find a general expression to compute the **predictive distribution**:  $p(\hat{t} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t})$

Notation:

$$\hat{t} = t^*$$

Bishop vs.  
Rasmussen

This expression should

- model all conditional independencies
- explicitly incorporate all parameters (also the deterministic ones)



# Example: Regression as a Graphical Model

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Notation:

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Bishop vs.  
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This expression should

- model all conditional independencies
- explicitly incorporate all parameters (also the deterministic ones)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\hat{t} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \sigma^2) &= \int p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{w} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \sigma^2) d\mathbf{w} \\ &= \int \frac{p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{t} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2)}{p(\mathbf{t} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2)} d\mathbf{w} \propto \int p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{t} \mid \hat{x}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) d\mathbf{w} \end{aligned}$$



# Regression as a Graphical Model

Regression: Prediction of a new target value  $\hat{t}$

Notation:

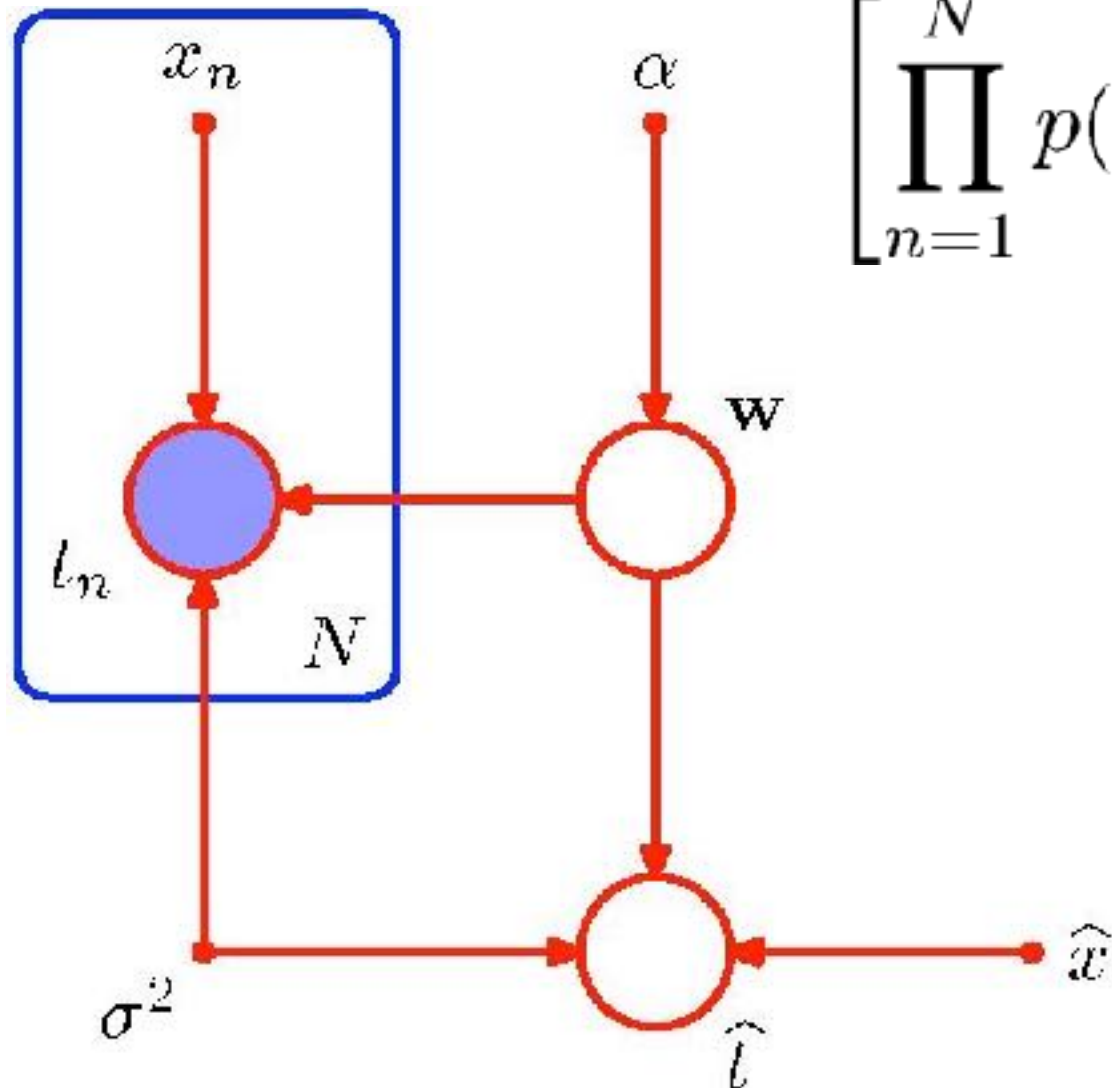
$$\hat{t} = t^*$$

$$p(\hat{t}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w} \mid \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}, \alpha, \sigma^2) =$$

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

Here: conditioning on all deterministic parameters

Using this, we can obtain the **predictive distribution**:



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

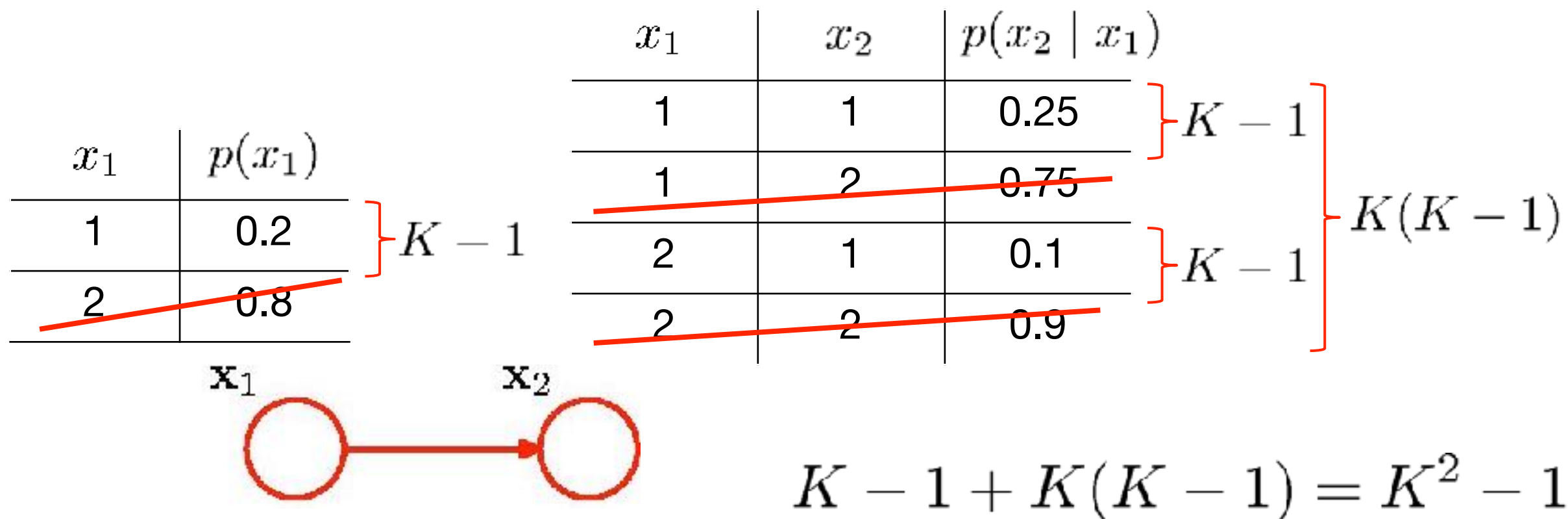




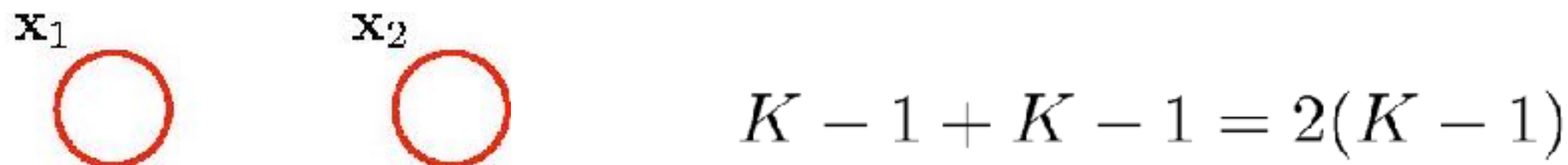
# Example: Discrete Variables

- Two dependent variables:  $K^2 - 1$  parameters

Here:  $K = 2$



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



# Discrete Variables: General Case

In a general joint distribution with  $M$  variables we need to store  $K^M - 1$  parameters

If the distribution can be described by this graph:



then we have only  $K - 1 + (M - 1) K(K - 1)$  parameters.

This graph is called a **Markov chain** with  $M$  nodes.

The number of parameters grows only **linearly** with the number of variables.



# Independence (Rep.)

**Definition 1.4:** Two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are *independent* iff:  $p(x, y) = p(x)p(y)$

For independent random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  we have:

$$p(x \mid y) = \frac{p(x, y)}{p(y)} = \frac{p(x)p(y)}{p(y)} = p(x)$$

Notation:  $x \perp\!\!\!\perp y \mid \emptyset$

Independence does **not** imply conditional independence!  
The same is true for the opposite case.



# Conditional Independence (Rep.)

**Definition 1.5:** Two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are *conditional independent* given a third random variable  $Z$  iff:

$$p(x, y \mid z) = p(x \mid z)p(y \mid z)$$

This is equivalent to:

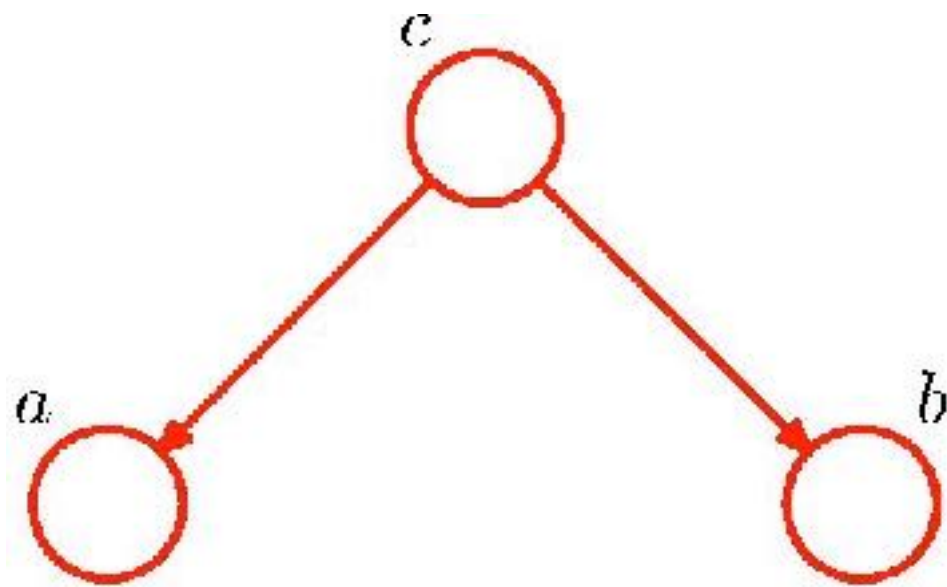
$$p(x \mid z) = p(x \mid y, z) \quad \text{and}$$

$$p(y \mid z) = p(y \mid x, z)$$

|   |
|---|
| Notation: $x \perp\!\!\!\perp y \mid z$ |
|---|



# Conditional Independence: Example 1



This graph represents the probability distribution:

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

Marginalizing out  $c$  on both sides gives

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

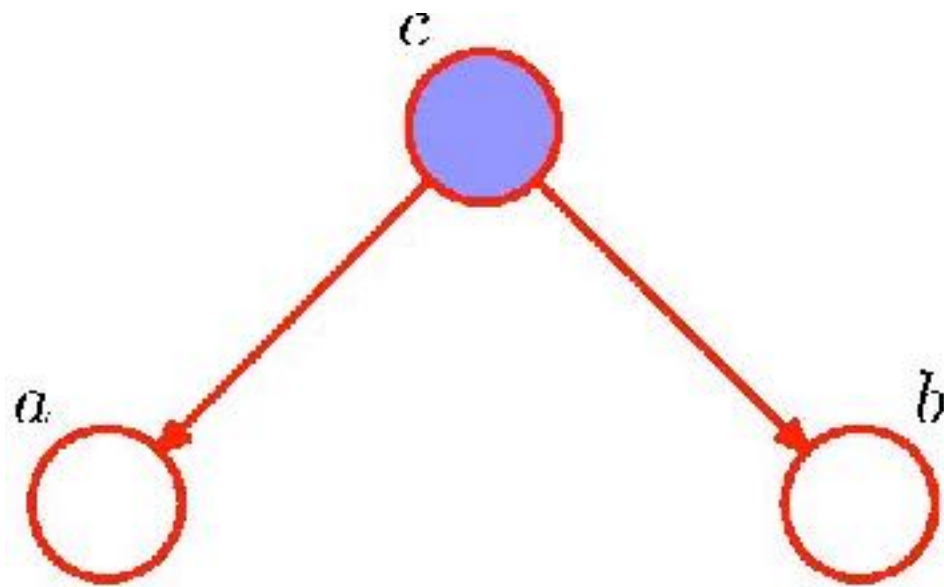
This is in general not equal to  $p(a)p(b)$ .

**Thus:**  $a$  and  $b$  are not independent:  $a \not\perp b \mid \emptyset$



# Conditional Independence: Example 1

Now, we condition on  $c$  ( it is assumed to be known):



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

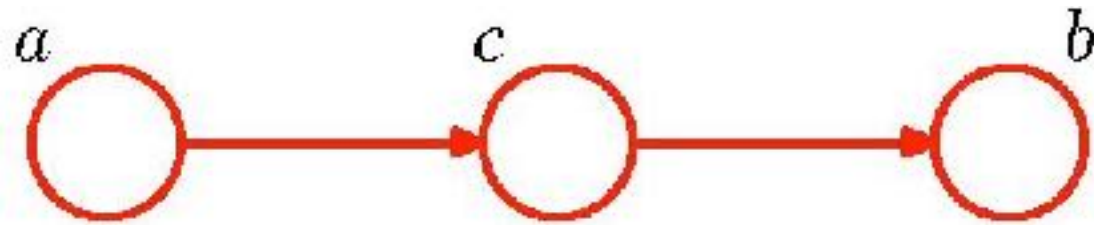
**Thus:**  $a$  and  $b$  are conditionally independent given  $c$ :  $a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid c$

We say that the node at  $c$  is a **tail-to-tail node** on the path between  $a$  and  $b$





# Conditional Independence: Example 2



This graph represents the distribution:

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

Again, we marginalize over  $c$ :

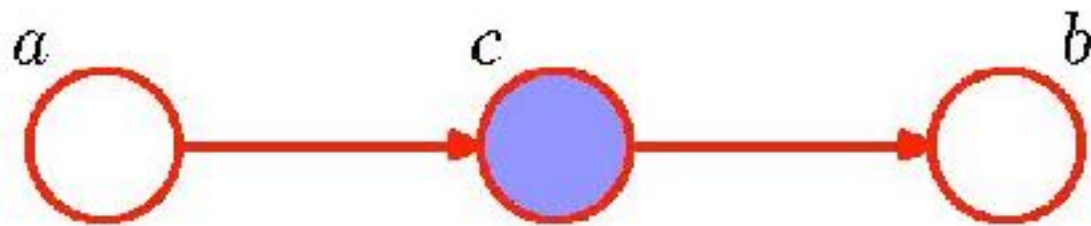
$$\begin{aligned} p(a, b) &= p(a) \sum_c p(c|a)p(b|c) = p(a) \sum_c p(c|a)p(b|c, a) \\ &= p(a) \sum_c \frac{p(c, a)p(b, c, a)}{p(a)p(c, a)} = p(a) \sum_c p(b, c | a) \\ &= p(a)p(b|a) \end{aligned}$$

And we obtain:  $a \not\perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid \emptyset$



# Conditional Independence: Example 2

As before, now we condition on  $c$  :



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

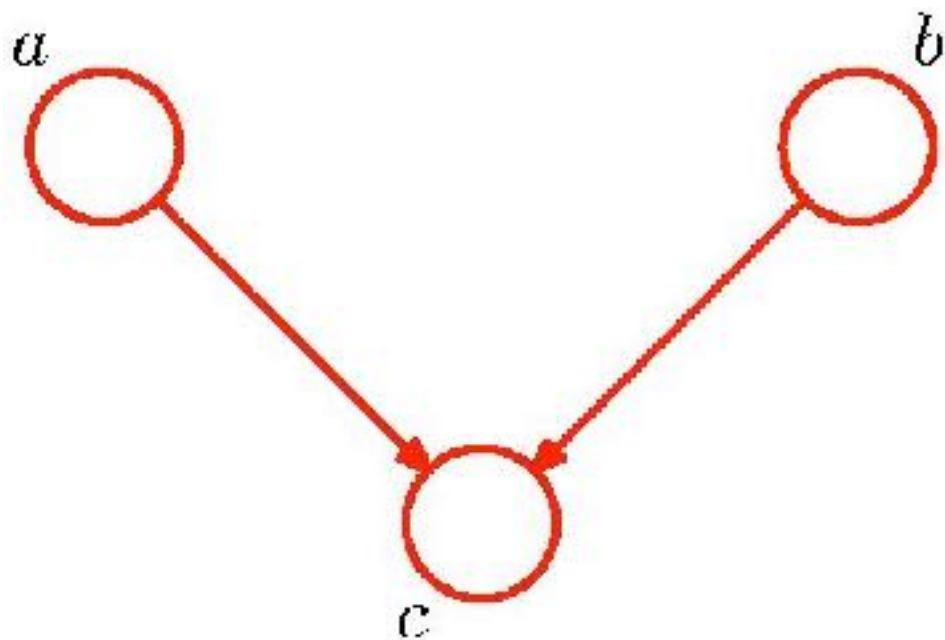
And we obtain:  $a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid c$

We say that the node at  $c$  is a **head-to-tail node** on the path between  $a$  and  $b$ .



# Conditional Independence: Example 3

Now consider this graph:



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

using:

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

we obtain:

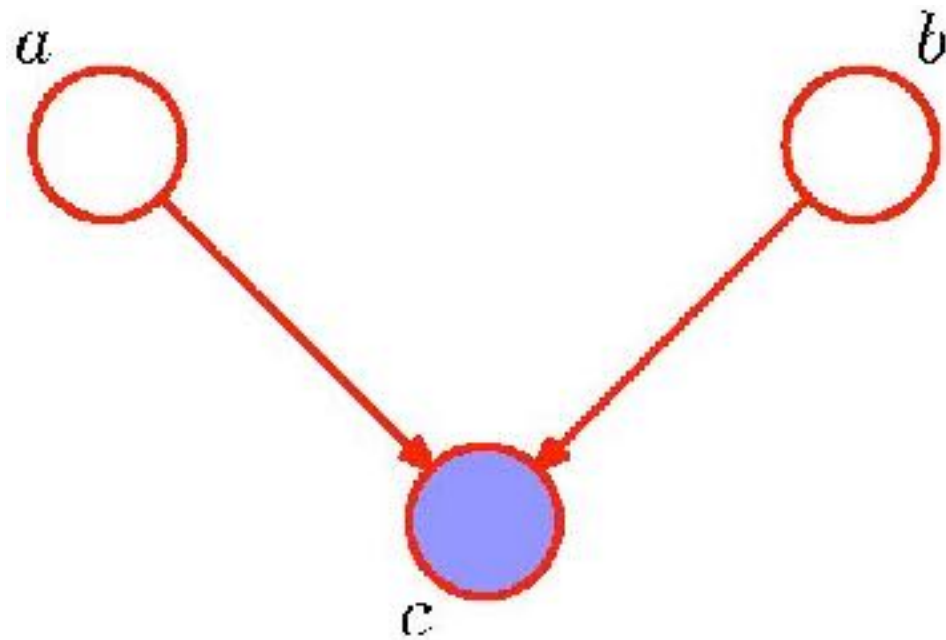
$$p(a, b) = p(a)p(b)$$

And the result is:  $a \perp\!\!\!\perp b \mid \emptyset$



# Conditional Independence: Example 3

Again, we condition on  $c$



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

This results in:  $a \not\perp b \mid c$

We say that the node at  $c$  is a **head-to-head node** on the path between  $a$  and  $b$ .



# To Summarize

- When does the graph represent (conditional) independence?

**Tail-to-tail case:** if we condition on the tail-to-tail node

**Head-to-tail case:** if we cond. on the head-to-tail node

**Head-to-head case:** if we do **not** condition on the head-to-head node (and neither on any of its descendants)

In general, this leads to the notion of **D-separation** for directed graphical models.



# D-Separation

Say:  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are non-intersecting subsets of nodes in a directed graph.

A path from  $A$  to  $B$  is **blocked** by  $C$  if it contains a node such that either

- a) the arrows on the path meet either **head-to-tail** or **tail-to-tail** at the node, and the node is **in** the set  $C$ , or
- b) the arrows meet **head-to-head** at the node, and neither the node, nor any of its descendants, are in the set  $C$ .

If all paths from  $A$  to  $B$  are blocked,  $A$  is said to be **d-separated** from  $B$  by  $C$ .

**Notation:**  $\text{dsep}(A, B|C)$





# D-Separation

Say:  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are non-intersecting subsets of nodes in a directed graph.

- A path contains a node

a) the arrow is tail at the node

b) the arrow is head at the node

- If all paths from  $A$  to  $B$

are blocked by  $C$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  are d-separated by  $C$ .

**Notation:**  $dsep(A, B|C)$

**D-Separation is a  
property of graphs  
and not of  
probability  
distributions**

contains

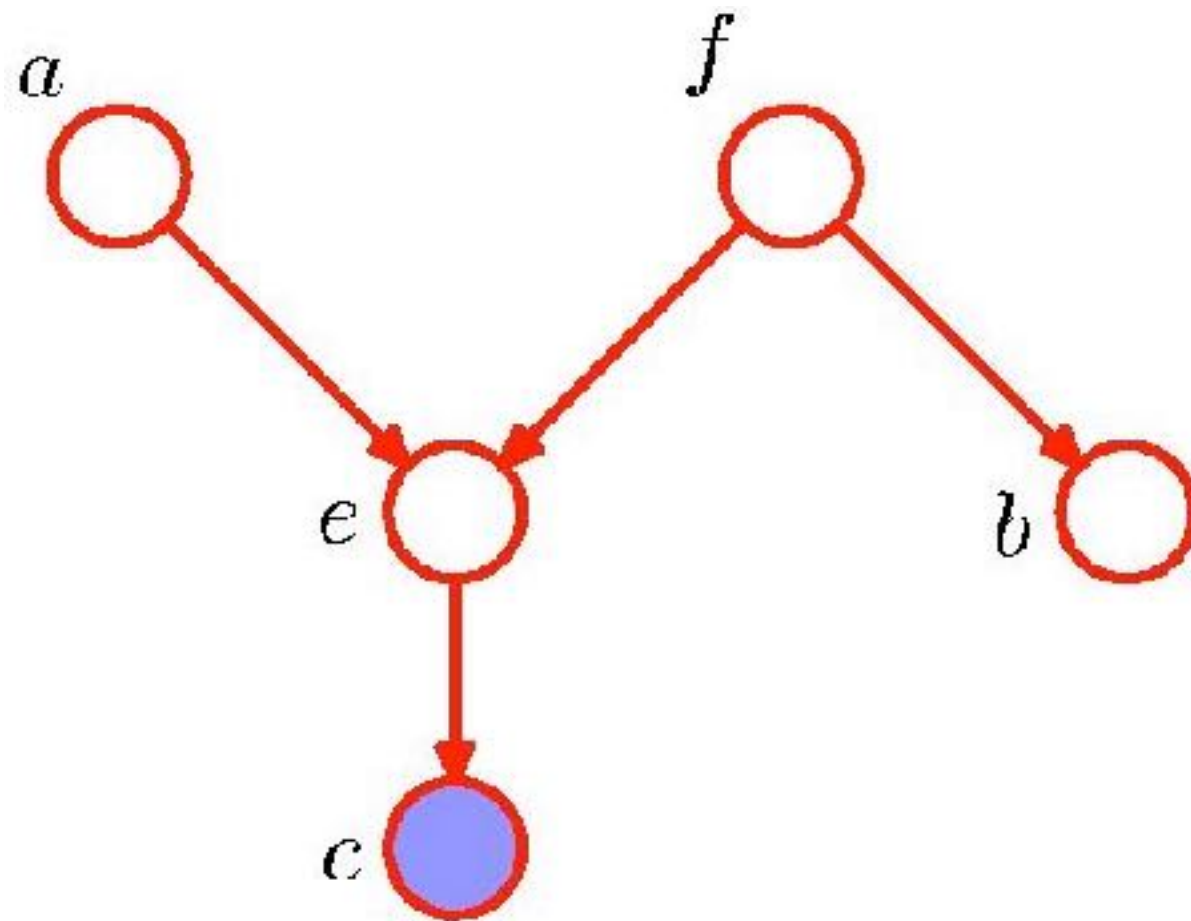
tail-to-

neither  
 $C$ .

aid to

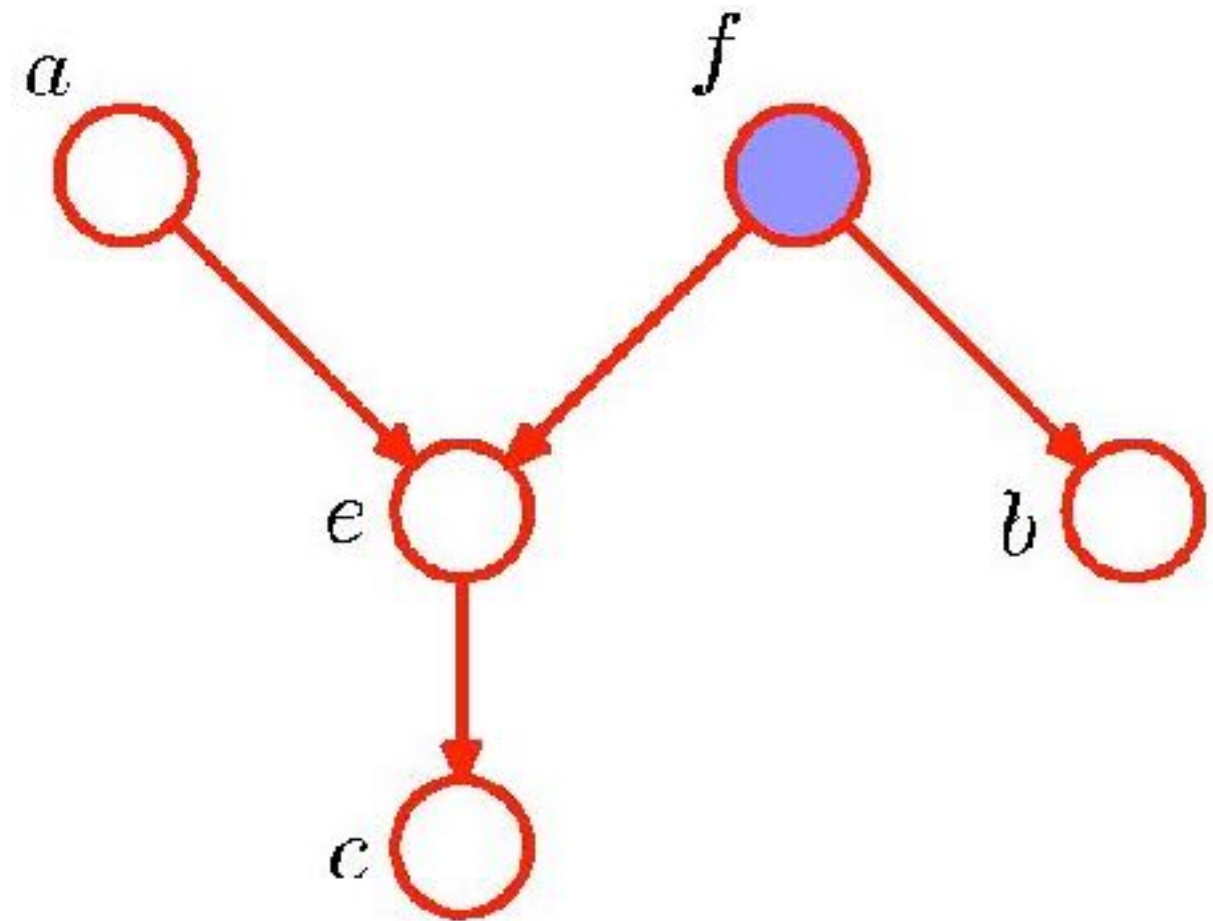


# D-Separation: Example



$$\neg \text{dsep}(a, b | c)$$

We condition on a descendant of  $e$ , i.e. it does not block the path from  $a$  to  $b$ .



$$\text{dsep}(a, b | f)$$

We condition on a tail-to-tail node on the only path from  $a$  to  $b$ , i.e.  $f$  blocks the path.



# I-Map

**Definition 4.1:** A graph  $G$  is called an **I-map** for a distribution  $p$  if every D-separation of  $G$  corresponds to a conditional independence relation satisfied by  $p$ :

$$\forall A, B, C : \text{dsep}(A, B, C) \Rightarrow A \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid C$$

**Example:** The fully connected graph is an I-map for any distribution, as there are no D-separations in that graph.



# D-Map

**Definition 4.2:** A graph  $G$  is called an **D-map** for a distribution  $p$  if for every conditional independence relation satisfied by  $p$  there is a D-separation in  $G$  :

$$\forall A, B, C : A \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid C \Rightarrow \text{dsep}(A, B, C)$$

**Example:** The graph without any edges is a D-map for any distribution, as all pairs of subsets of nodes are D-separated in that graph.



# Perfect Map

**Definition 4.3:** A graph  $G$  is called a **perfect map** for a distribution  $p$  if it is a D-map and an I-map of  $p$ .

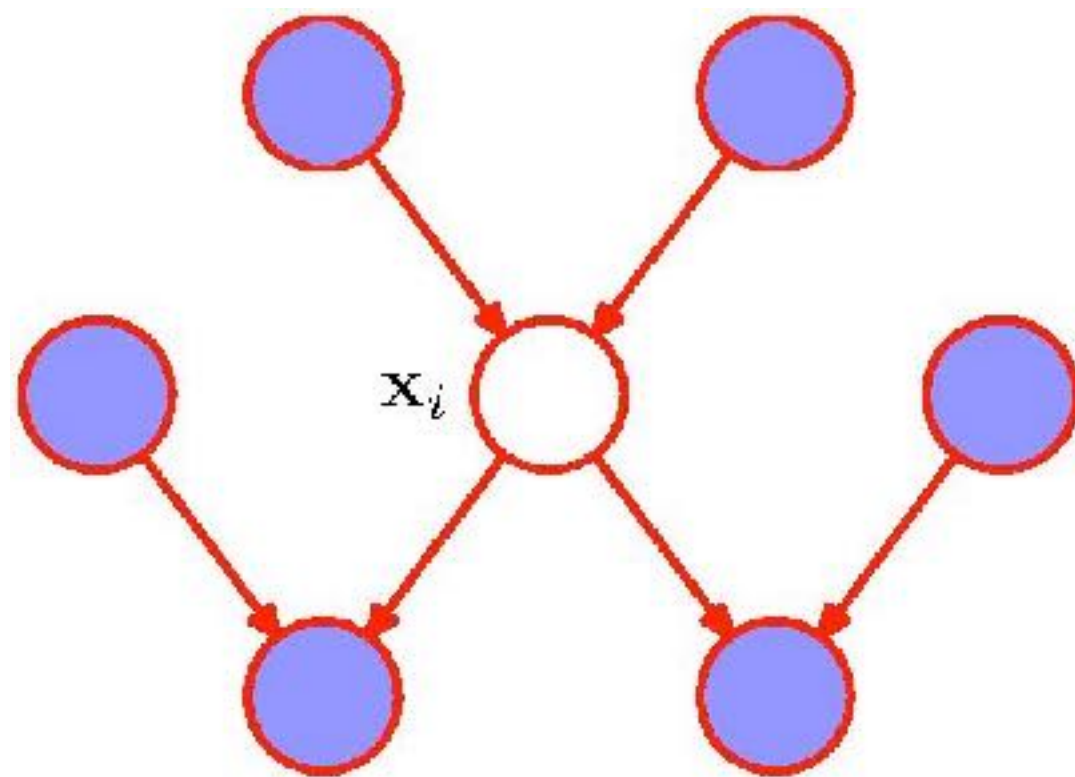
$$\forall A, B, C : A \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid C \Leftrightarrow \text{dsep}(A, B, C)$$

A perfect map uniquely defines a probability distribution.



# The Markov Blanket

Consider a distribution of a node  $\mathbf{x}_i$  conditioned on all other nodes:



**Markov blanket**  $\mathcal{M}_i$  at  $\mathbf{x}_i$  : all parents, children and co-parents of  $\mathbf{x}_i$ .

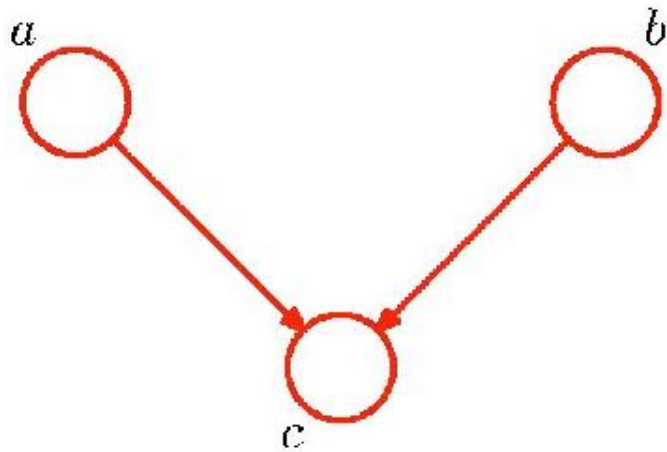
$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{x}_{\{j \neq i\}}) &= \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_M)}{\int p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_M) d\mathbf{x}_i} \\ &= \frac{\prod_k p(\mathbf{x}_k | \text{pa}_k)}{\int \prod_k p(\mathbf{x}_k | \text{pa}_k) d\mathbf{x}_i} \end{aligned}$$

Factors independent of  $\mathbf{x}_i$  cancel between numerator and denominator.





# In-depth: The Head-to-Head Node



$$p(a) = 0.9 \quad p(b) = 0.9$$

| $a$ | $b$ | $p(c)$ |
|-----|-----|--------|
| 1   | 1   | 0.8    |
| 1   | 0   | 0.2    |
| 0   | 1   | 0.2    |
| 0   | 0   | 0.1    |

Example:

a: Battery charged (0 or 1)

b: Fuel tank full (0 or 1)

c: Fuel gauge says full (0 or 1)

We can compute  $p(\neg c) = 0.315$

and  $p(\neg c \mid \neg b) = 0.81$

and obtain  $p(\neg b \mid \neg c) \approx 0.257$

similarly:  $p(\neg b \mid \neg c, \neg a) \approx 0.111$

**“ $a$  explains  $c$  away”**



# Directed vs. Undirected Graphs

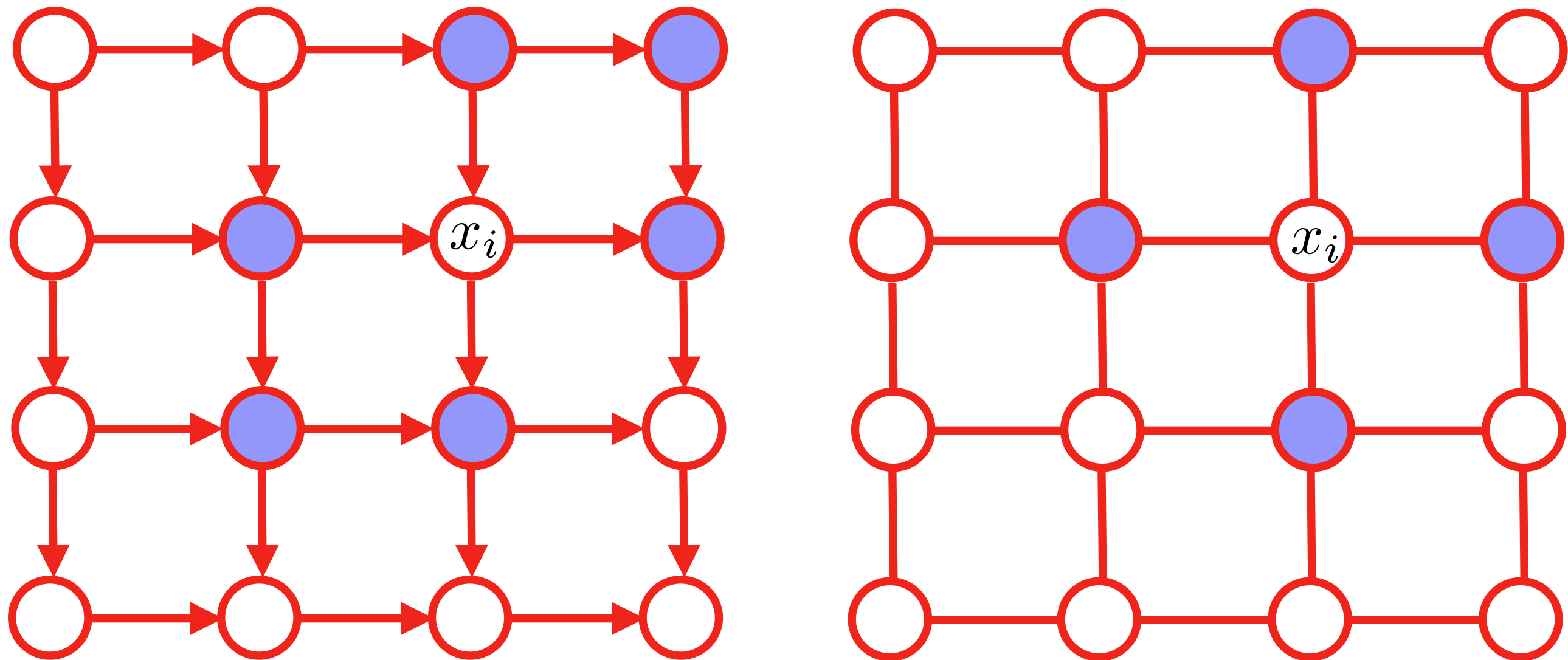
Using D-separation we can identify conditional independencies in directed graphical models, but:

- Is there a simpler, more intuitive way to express conditional independence in a graph?
- Can we find a representation for cases where an „ordering“ of the random variables is inappropriate (e.g. the pixels in a camera image)?

**Yes, we can:** by removing the directions of the edges we obtain an Undirected Graphical Model, also known as a **Markov Random Field**



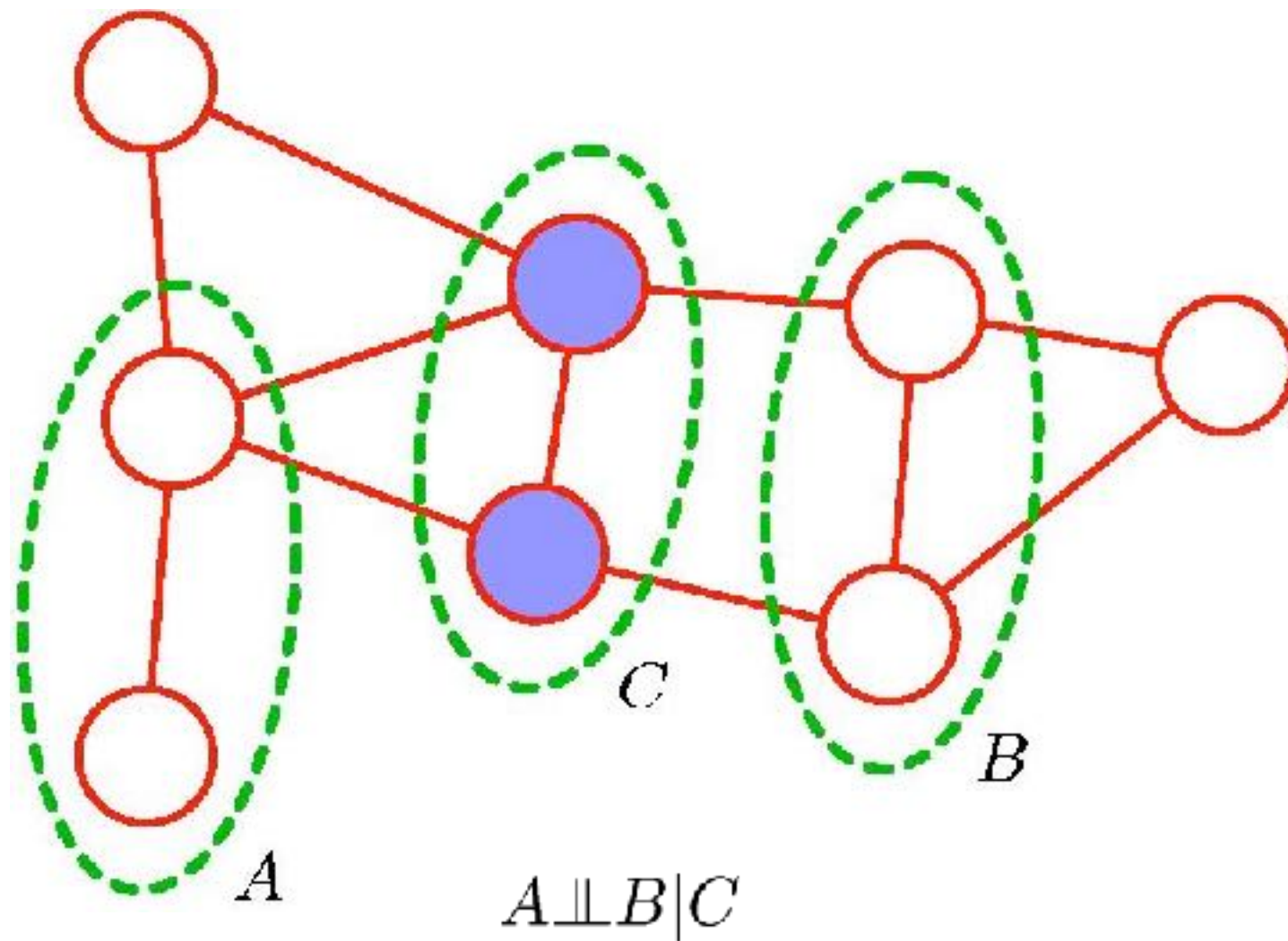
# Example: Camera Image



- directions are counter-intuitive for images
- Markov blanket is not just the direct neighbors when using a directed model

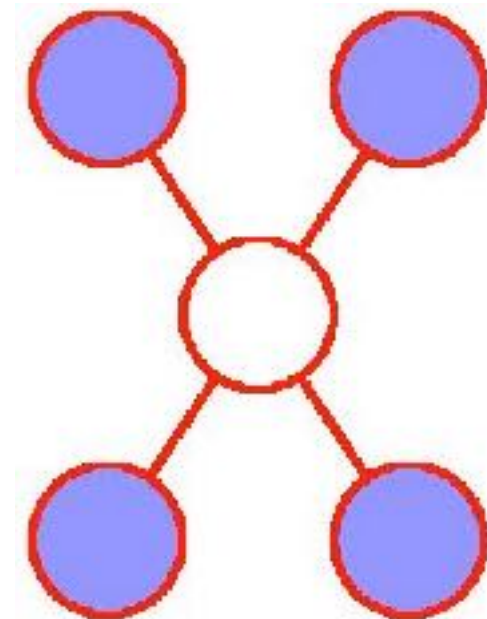


# Markov Random Fields



All paths from  $A$  to  $B$  go through  $C$ , i.e.  $C$  blocks all paths.

Markov Blanket



We only need to condition on the **direct neighbors** of  $x$  to get c.i., because these already block every path from  $x$  to any other node.



# Factorization of MRFs

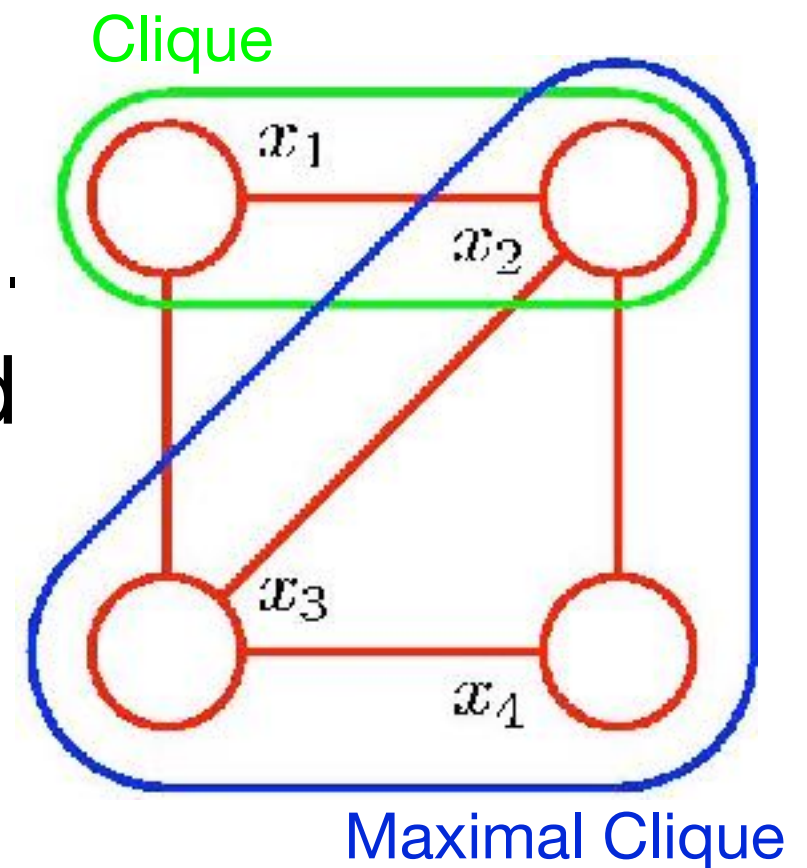
Any two nodes  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  that are not connected in an MRF are conditionally independent given all other nodes:

$$p(x_i, x_j \mid \mathbf{x}_{\setminus\{i,j\}}) = p(x_i \mid \mathbf{x}_{\setminus\{i,j\}})p(x_j \mid \mathbf{x}_{\setminus\{i,j\}})$$

In turn: each factor contains only nodes that are connected

This motivates the consideration of cliques in the graph:

- A **clique** is a fully connected subgraph.
- A **maximal** clique can not be extended with another node without losing the property of full connectivity.





# Factorization of MRFs

In general, a Markov Random Field is factorized as

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\prod_C \phi_C(\mathbf{x}_C)}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}'} \prod_C \phi_C(\mathbf{x}'_C)} = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_C \phi_C(\mathbf{x}_C) \quad (4.1)$$

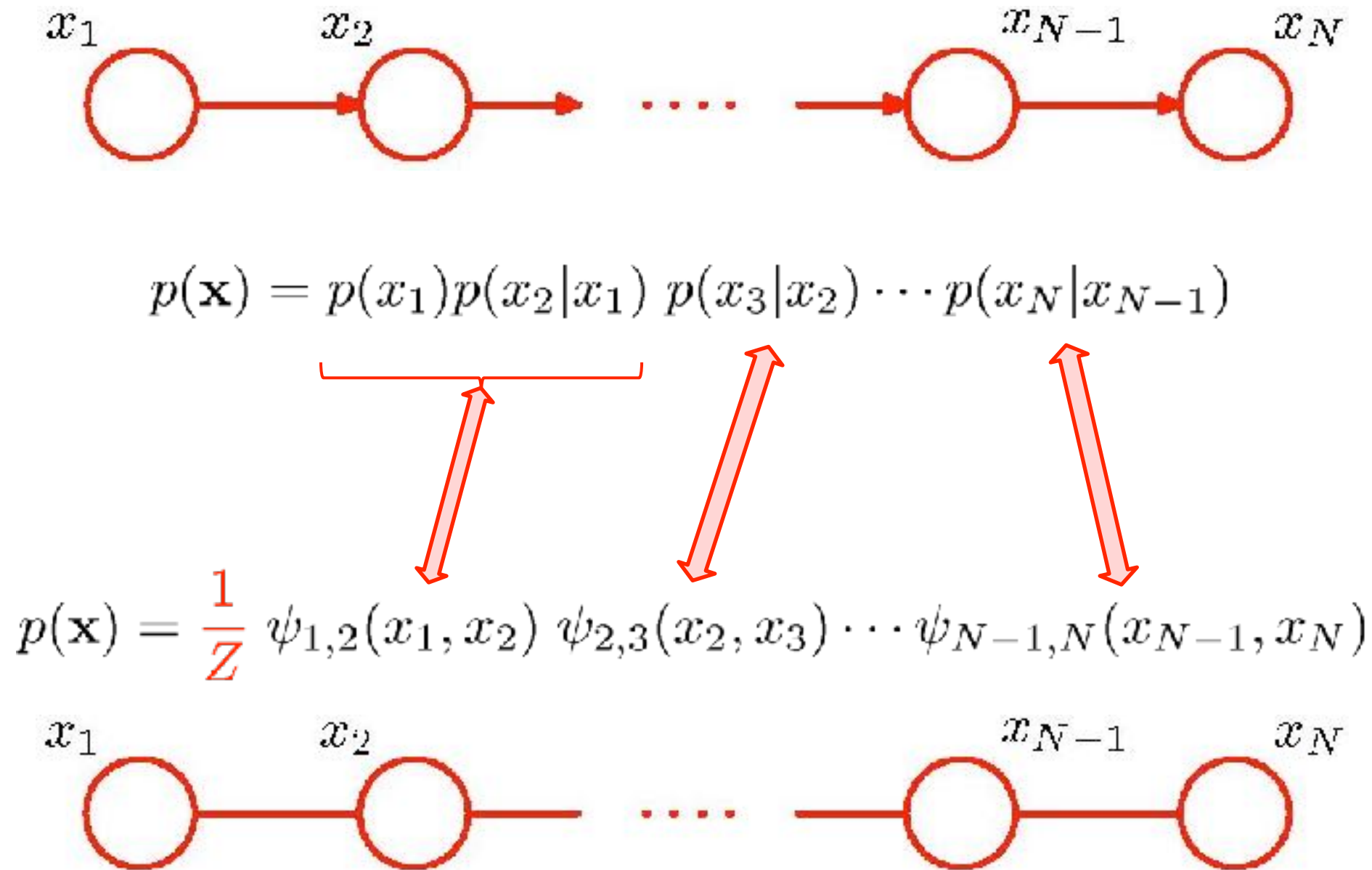
where  $C$  is the set of all (maximal) cliques and  $\phi_C$  is a positive function of a given clique  $\mathbf{x}_C$  of nodes, called the **clique potential**.  $Z$  is called the **partition function**.

**Theorem (Hammersley/Clifford):** Any undirected model with associated clique potentials  $\phi_C$  is a perfect map for the probability distribution defined by Equation (4.1).

As a conclusion, all probability distributions that can be factorized as in (4.1), can be represented as an MRF.



# Converting Directed to Undirected Graphs (1)

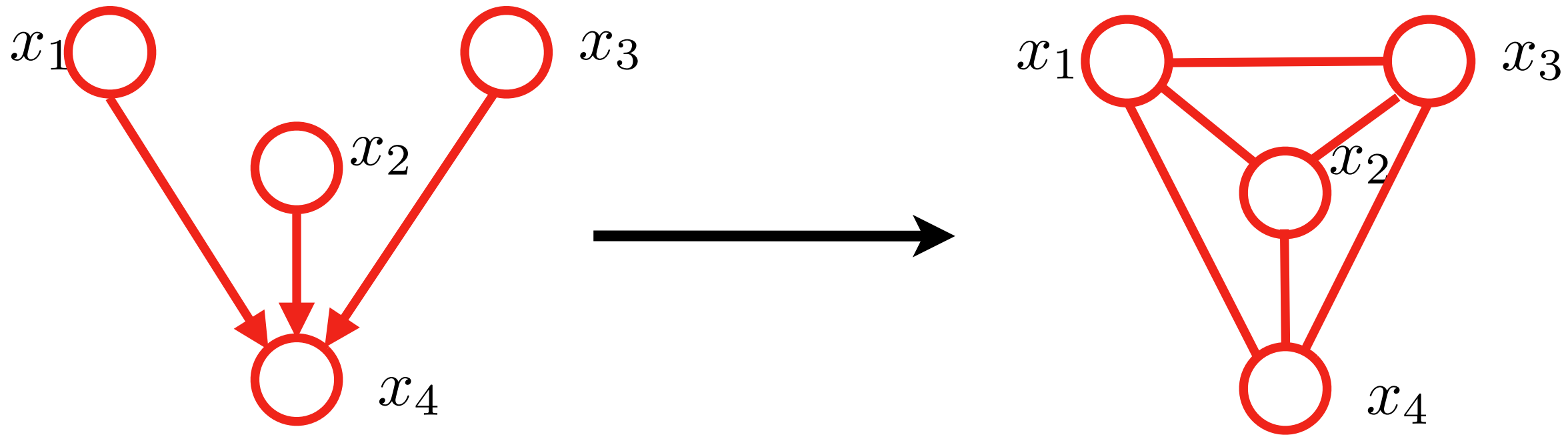


In this case:  $Z=1$





# Converting Directed to Undirected Graphs (2)



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

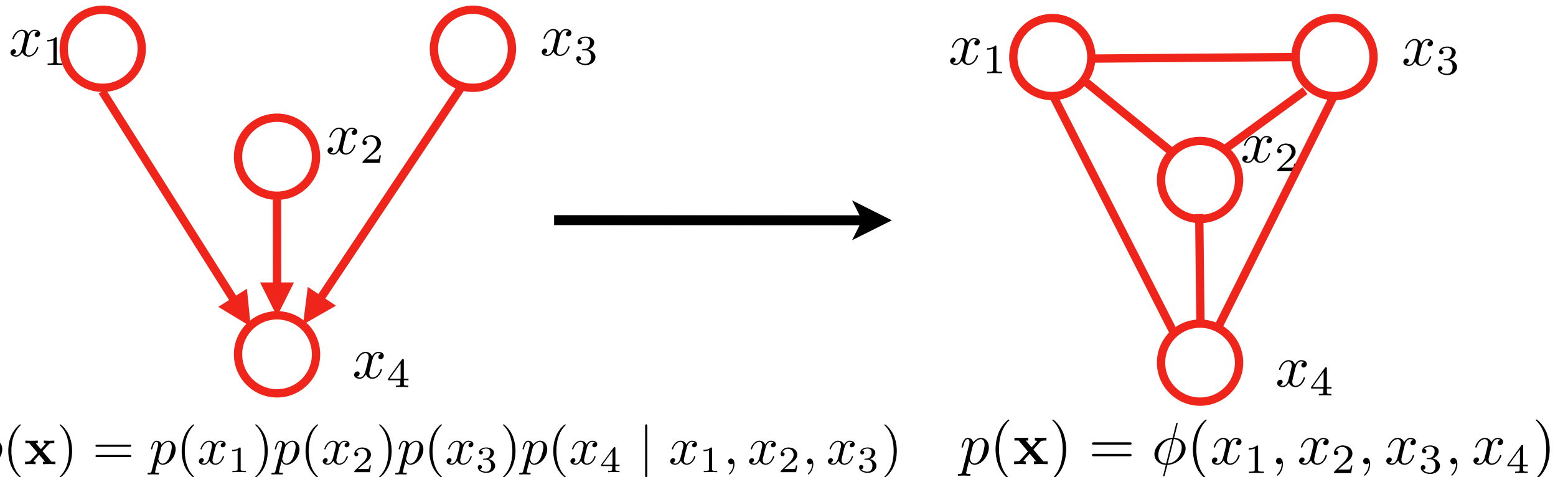
**In general:** conditional distributions in the directed graph are mapped to cliques in the undirected graph

**However:** the variables are **not** conditionally independent given the head-to-head node

Therefore: Connect all parents of head-to-head nodes with each other (**moralization**)



# Converting Directed to Undirected Graphs (2)



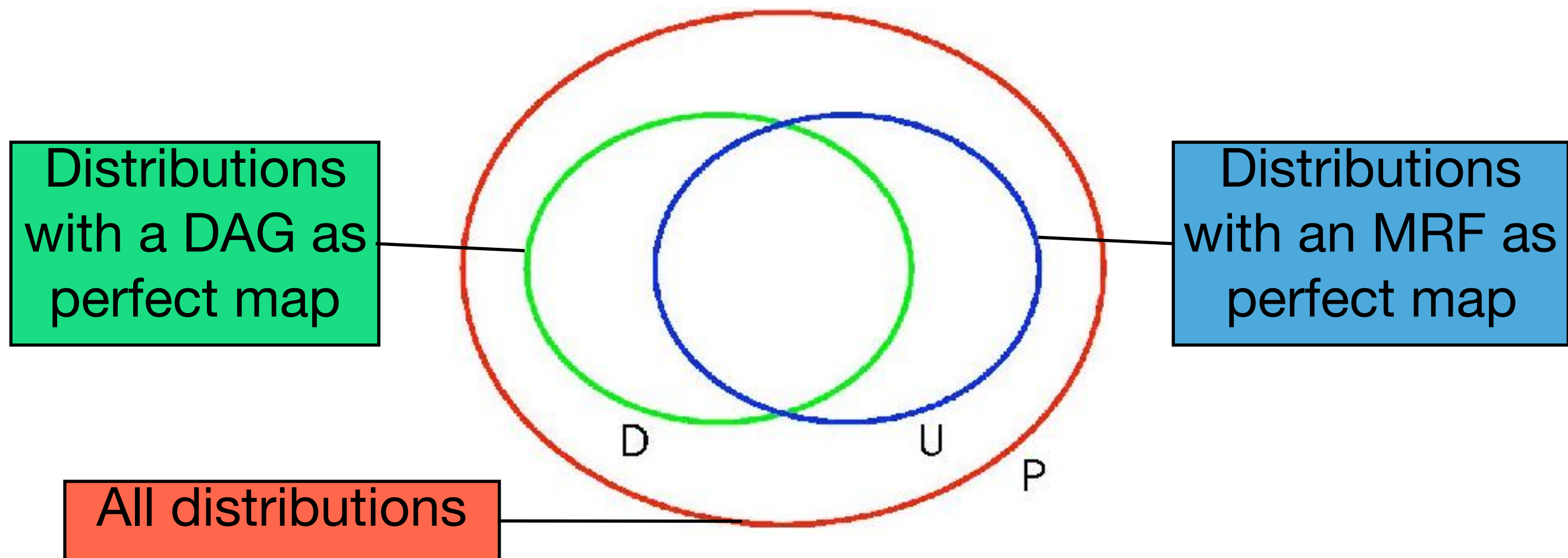
**Problem:** This process can remove conditional independence relations, making the model too complex

**Generally:** There is no one-to-one mapping between the distributions represented by directed and by undirected graphs.

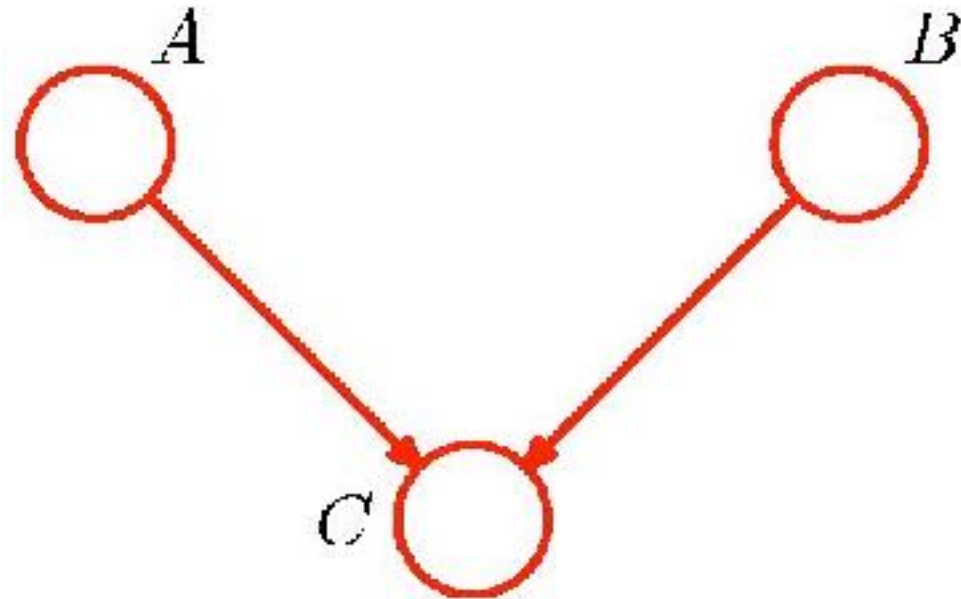


# Representability

- As for DAGs, we can define an I-map, a D-map and a perfect map for MRFs.
- The set of all distributions for which a DAG exists that is a perfect map is different from that for MRFs.

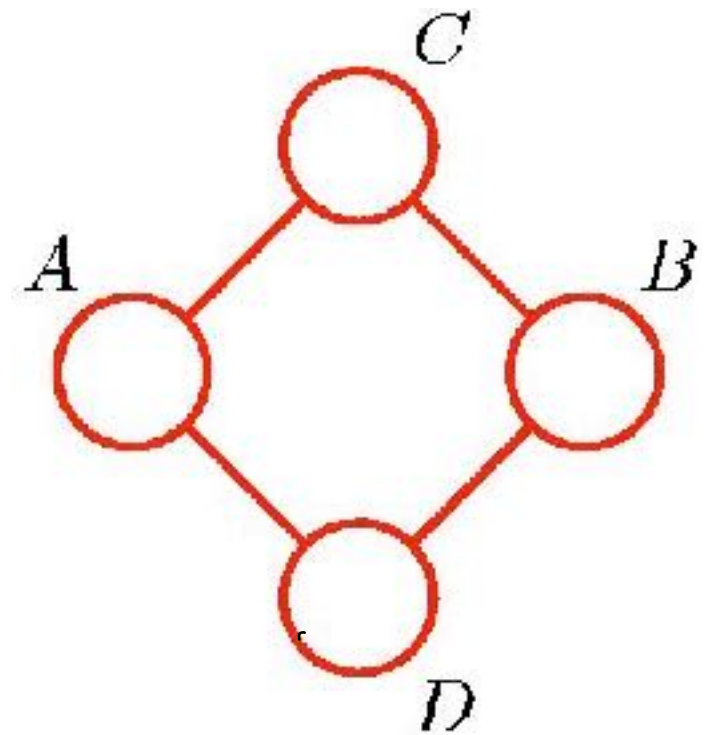


# Directed vs. Undirected Graphs



$$A \perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid \emptyset$$

$$A \not\perp\!\!\!\perp B \mid C$$



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

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

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

Both distributions can not be represented in the other framework (directed/undirected) with all conditional independence relations.

