

# Stochastic Constraint Propagation for Mining Probabilistic Networks

originally presented at the 28th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Macao 2019

Anna Louise Latour, Behrouz Babaki, Siegfried Nijssen.



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

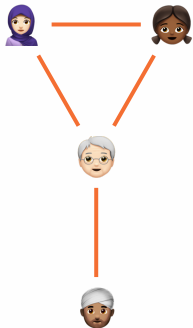


POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTREAL



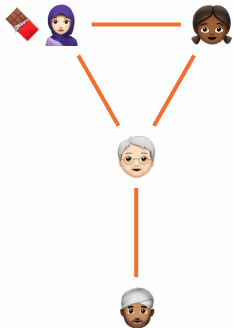
# Stochastic Constraint Optimization Problems

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem



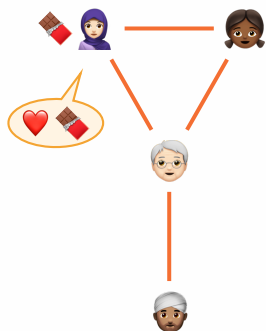
David Kempe, Jon Kleinberg, and Éva Tardos  
*Maximizing the spread of influence through a social network*  
KDD, 2003

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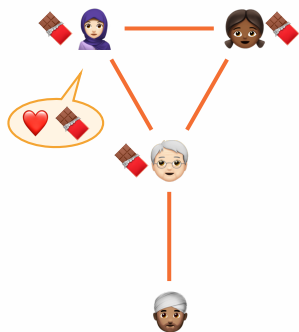
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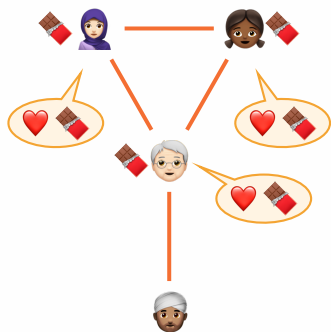
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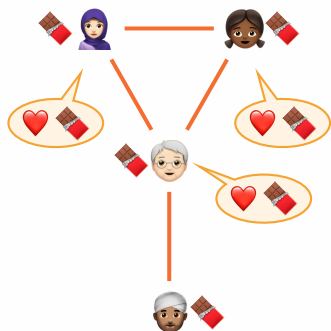
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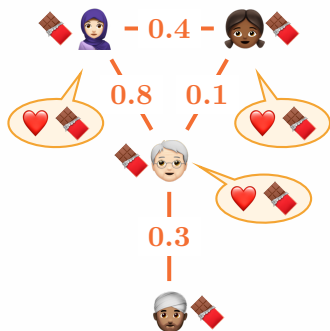
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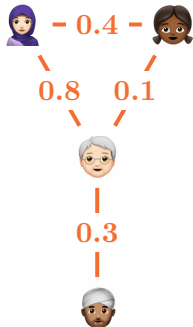
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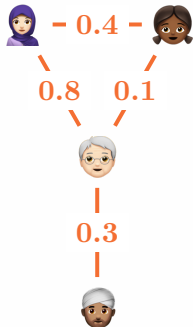


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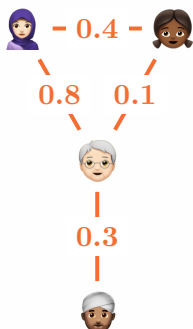
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## Properties


- **Probabilistic** influence;



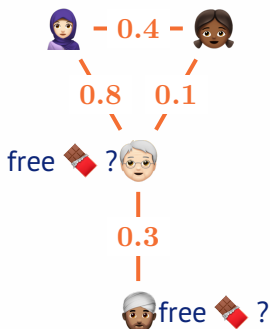
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## Properties

- **Probabilistic** influence;
- limited **budget** of free samples  
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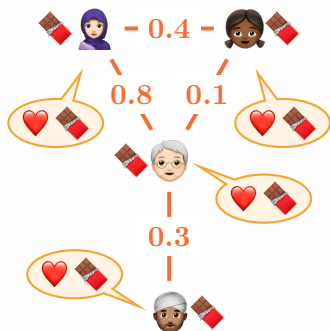
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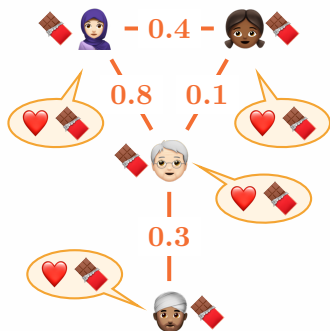
# Example: Viral Marketing Problem



## Properties

- **Probabilistic** influence;
- limited **budget** of free samples  
🍫🍫;
- **maximize** expected # people buying your chocolate.

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem

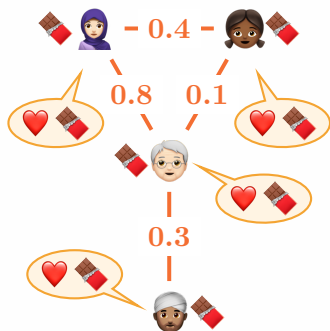


### Properties



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**Exact** solving is **NP-hard**

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem



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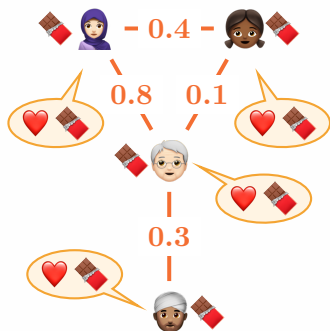
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### Exact solving is NP-hard



- Exponential # of **strategies**;



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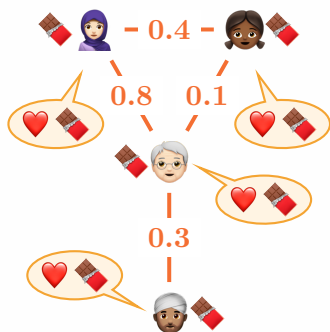
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- Exponential # of **strategies**;
- **Probabilistic inference** is #P-complete.

# Example: Viral Marketing Problem



## Properties

- **Probabilistic** influence;
- limited **budget** of free samples  
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- **maximize** expected influence by  
buying your

leverage  
CP technology  
(search & propagation)

## Exact solving is NP-hard

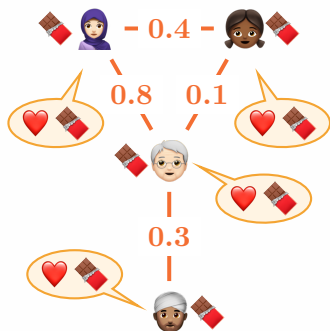
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Oscar: Scala in OR, 2012  
[oscarlib.org](http://oscarlib.org)

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Dan Roth  
*The hardness of approximate reasoning*  
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# Example: Viral Marketing Problem



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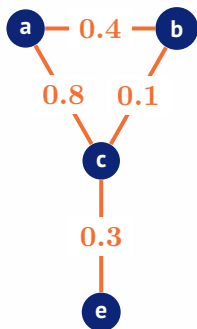
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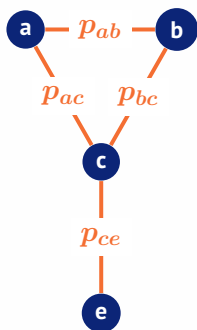
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Latour, Babaki, Nijssen. Stochastic Constraint Propagation in Social Networks. BNAIC 2019 2

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem



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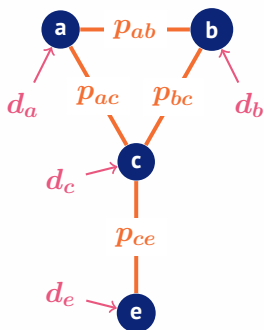


**Boolean** influence relationships are independent.

$$P(t_{xy} = 1) = p_{xy}$$

$$P(t_{xy} = 0) = (1 - p_{xy})$$

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem



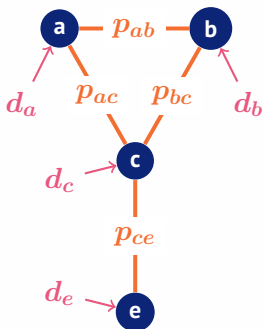
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$$d_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

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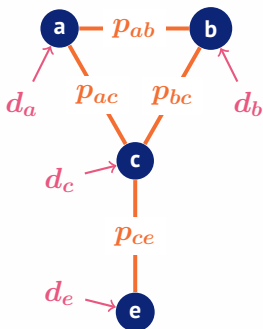
**Simplifying assumptions**

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## Example: Viral Marketing Problem



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**Simplifying assumptions**

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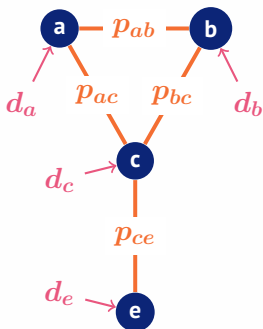
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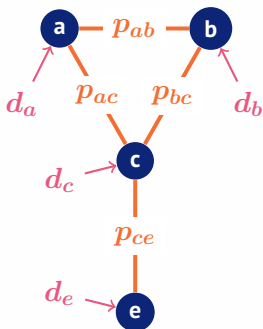
- influence relationships are symmetric;
- if person  $i$  gets a free sample ( $d_i = 1$ ), they will buy it in the future;

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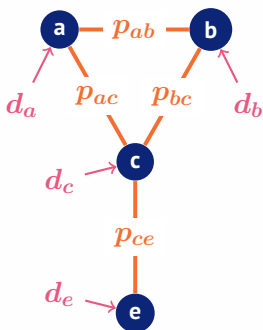
### Simplifying assumptions

- influence relationships are symmetric;
- if person  $i$  gets a free sample ( $d_i = 1$ ), they will buy it in the future;
- if person  $i$  buys chocolate and they have influence over  $j$  ( $t_{ij} = 1$ ), then  $j$  will buy chocolate.

## Example: Viral Marketing Problem

Person  $e$  buys chocolate:

$$\phi_e =$$



$$P(t_{xy} = 1) = p_{xy}$$

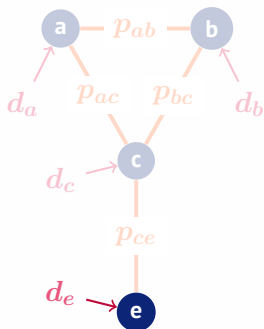
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Person  $e$  buys chocolate:

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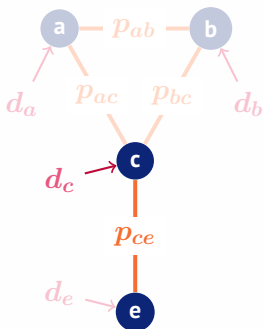
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## Example: Viral Marketing Problem

Person  $e$  buys chocolate:

$$\phi_e = d_e \vee (d_c \wedge t_{ce}) \vee$$

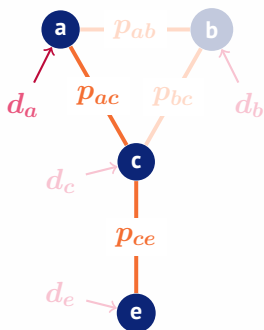


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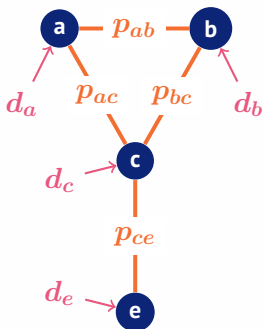
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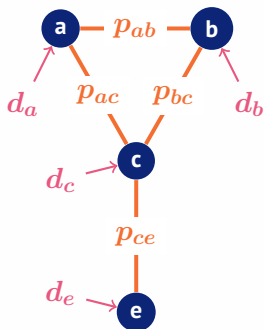
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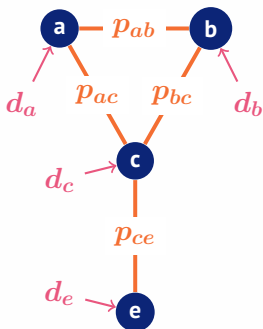
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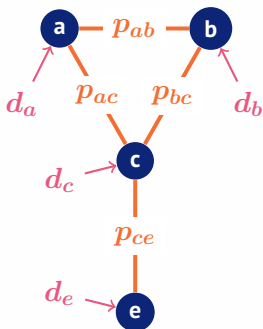
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$$\text{subject to: } \sum_{i \in \{a, b, c, e\}} d_i \leq k$$

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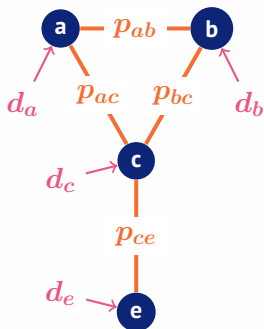
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repeatedly solve:

$$\sum_{i \in \{a, b, c, e\}} P(\phi_i \mid \sigma) > \theta$$

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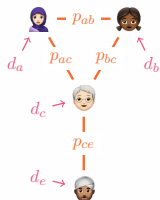
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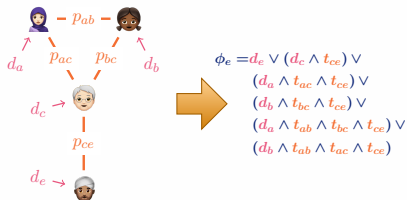
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# Existing (generic) method



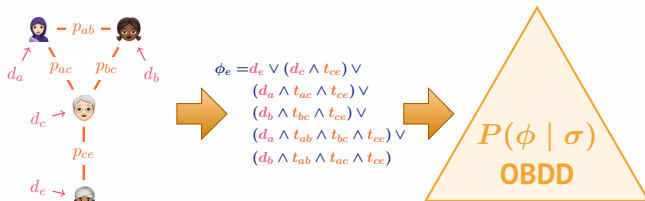
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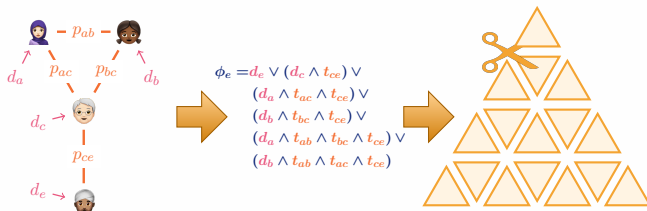
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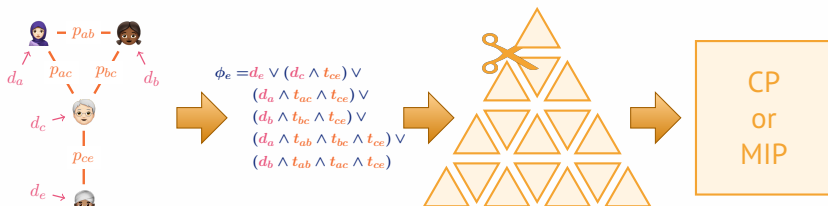
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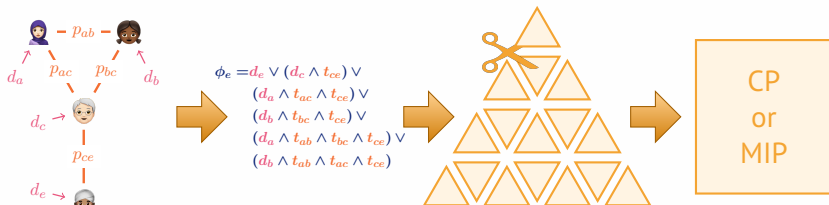
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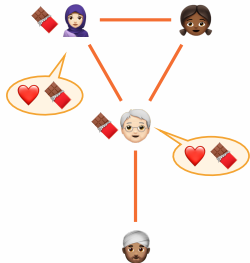


## Decomposition method.

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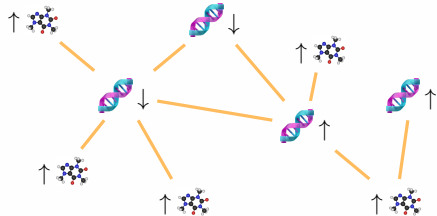
**Observation 1:** existing method does **not guarantee** Generalized Arc Consistency (**GAC**) → **inefficient**;

## Viral Marketing

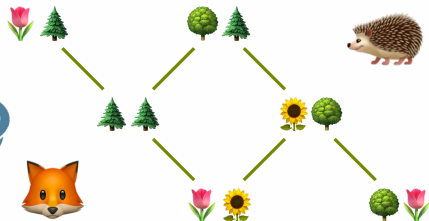


monotonic  
distributions

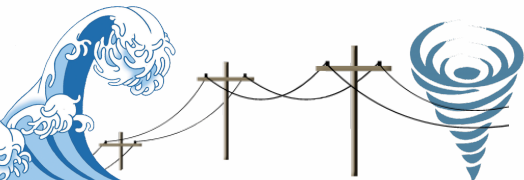
## Signalling Regulatory Pathways



## Landscape Connectivity



## Powergrid Reliability



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**Recall:** optimization is repeated **constraint solving**:

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) > \theta \text{ for increasing } \theta;$$

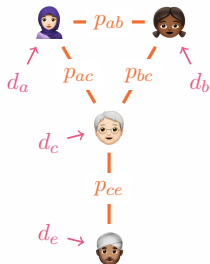
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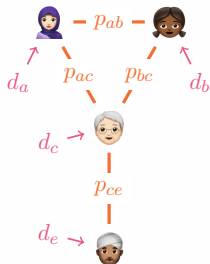
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**Recall:** optimization is repeated **constraint solving**:

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) > \theta \text{ for increasing } \theta;$$

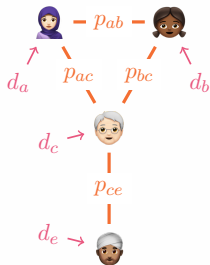
**GOAL:** create constraint propagation algorithm for Stochastic Constraints on Monotonic Distributions (SCMDs), which guarantees GAC.





$$\begin{aligned} \phi_e = & d_e \vee (d_c \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_a \wedge t_{ac} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_b \wedge t_{bc} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_a \wedge t_{ab} \wedge t_{bc} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_b \wedge t_{ab} \wedge t_{ac} \wedge t_{ce}) \end{aligned}$$



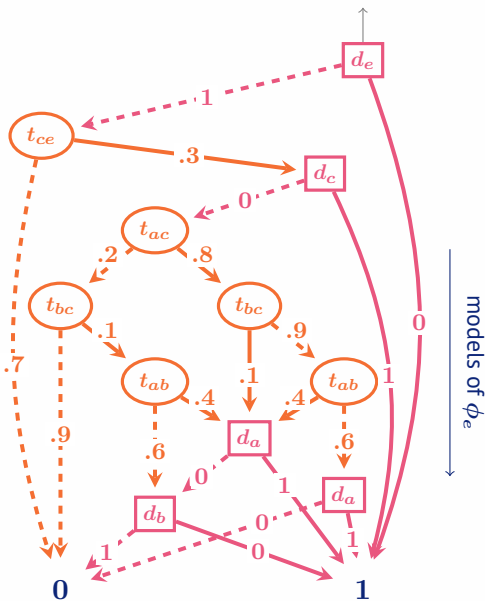


$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_e = & d_e \vee (d_c \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_a \wedge t_{ac} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_b \wedge t_{bc} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_a \wedge t_{ab} \wedge t_{bc} \wedge t_{ce}) \vee \\ & (d_b \wedge t_{ab} \wedge t_{ac} \wedge t_{ce}) \end{aligned}$$

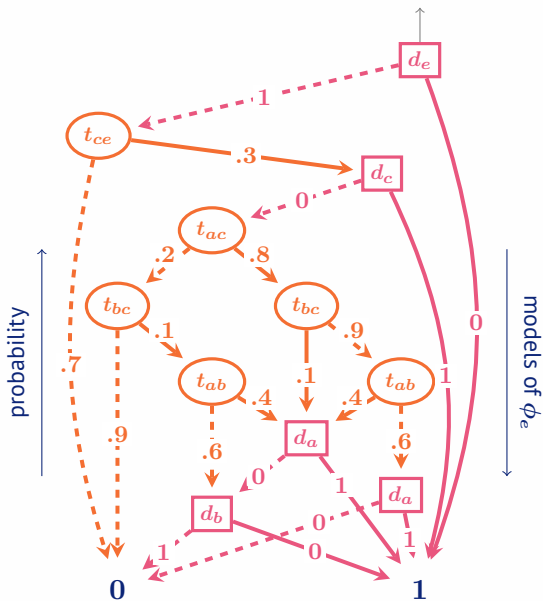


probability



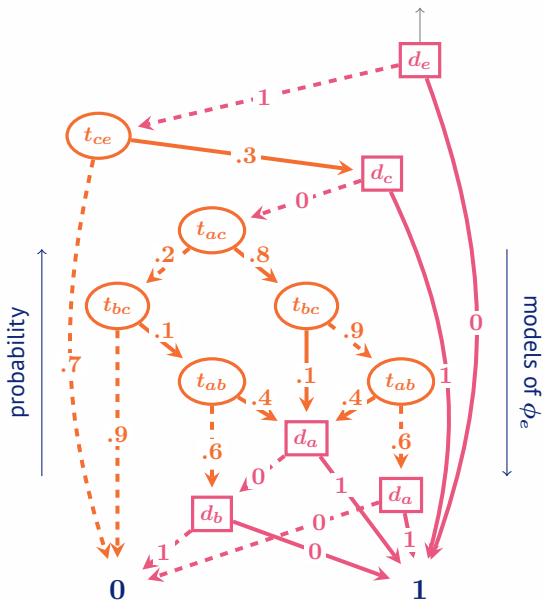
Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution**

$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$



Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

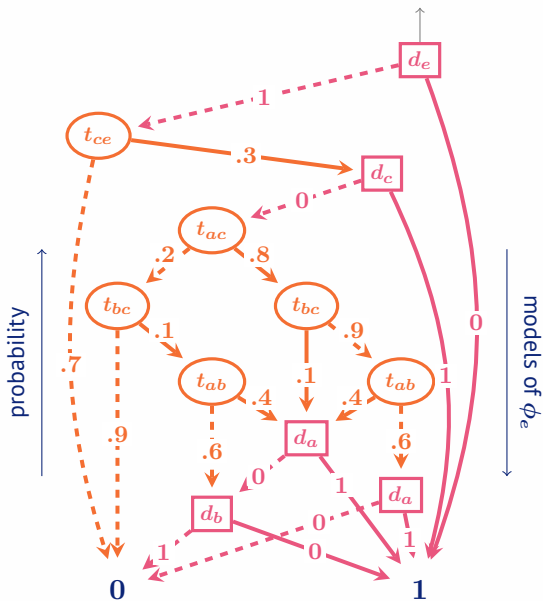
$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$



Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (OBDD) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) \geq \theta$$

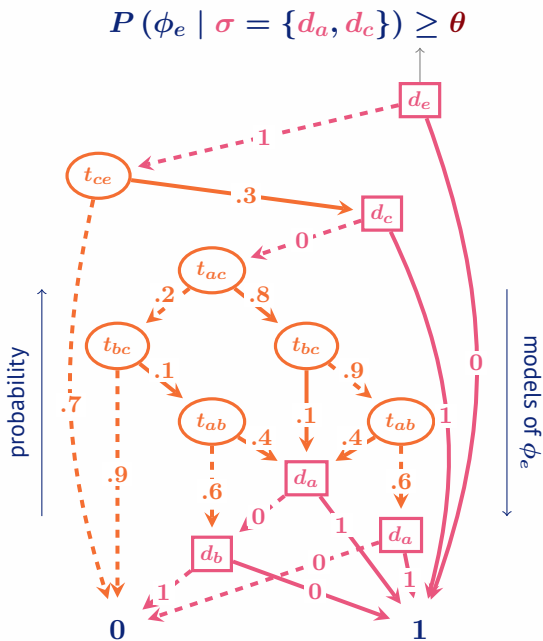
$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$



Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) \geq \theta$$

Use OBDD to evaluate **strategy**  $\sigma$ . **Complexity** of one sweep:  $O(m)$ , with  $m = |\text{OBDD}|$ .

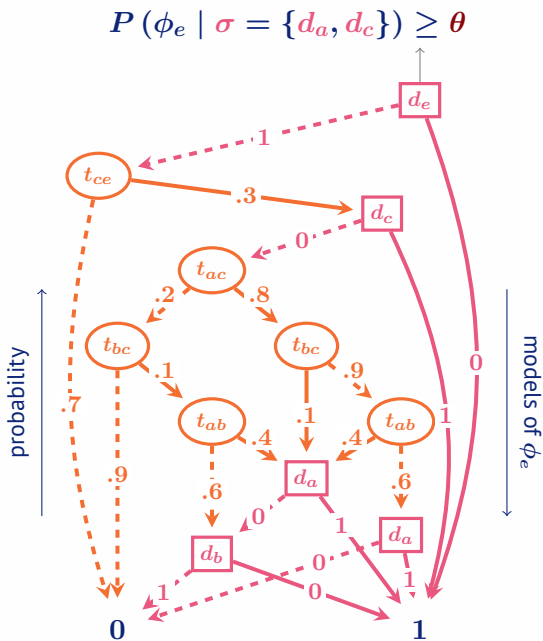


Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

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Use OBDD to evaluate **strategy**  $\sigma$ . **Complexity** of one sweep:  $O(m)$ , with  $m = |\text{OBDD}|$ .

**Naïve method** has complexity  $O(m \cdot n)$ , where  $n$  is the number of unbound variables



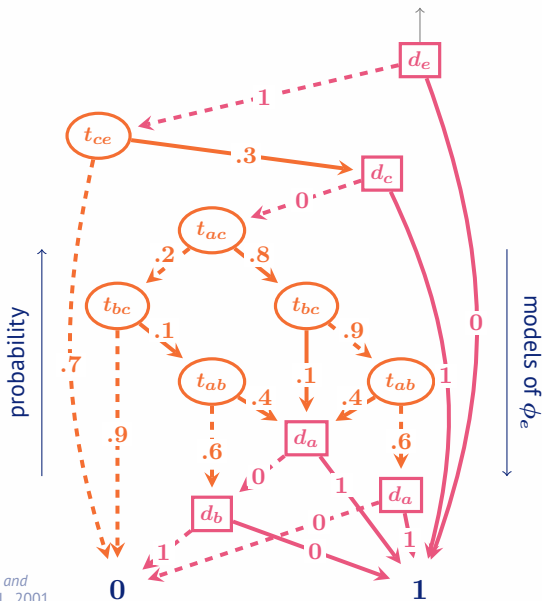
Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) \geq \theta$$

Use OBDD to evaluate **strategy**  $\sigma$ . **Complexity** of one sweep:  $O(m)$ , with  $m = |\text{OBDD}|$ .

**Smart, incremental (full sweep) method** has complexity  $O(m + n)$ , using **derivatives**.

$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$



Adnan Darwiche. *On the tractable counting of theory models and its application to belief revision and truth maintenance.* JANCL, 2001

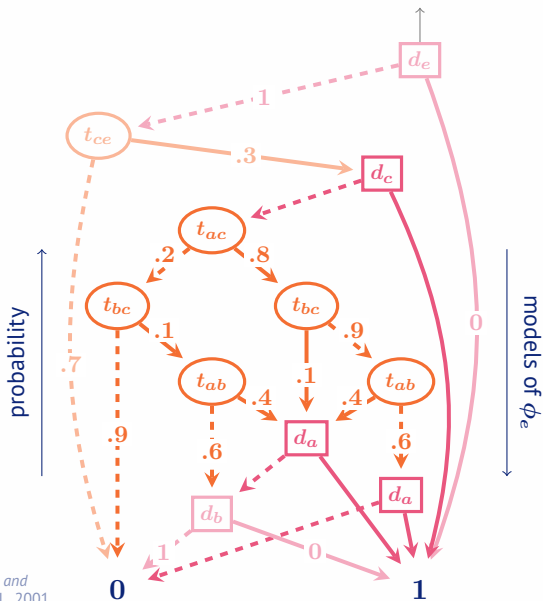
Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (**OBDD**) encodes **probability distribution** (not the solutions to the constraint).

$$\text{solve } \sum_{\phi \in \Phi} P(\phi \mid \sigma) \geq \theta$$

Use OBDD to evaluate **strategy**  $\sigma$ . **Complexity** of one sweep:  $O(m)$ , with  $m = |\text{OBDD}|$ .

**Smart, incremental (partial sweep) method** has complexity  $O(m + n)$ , using **derivatives**.

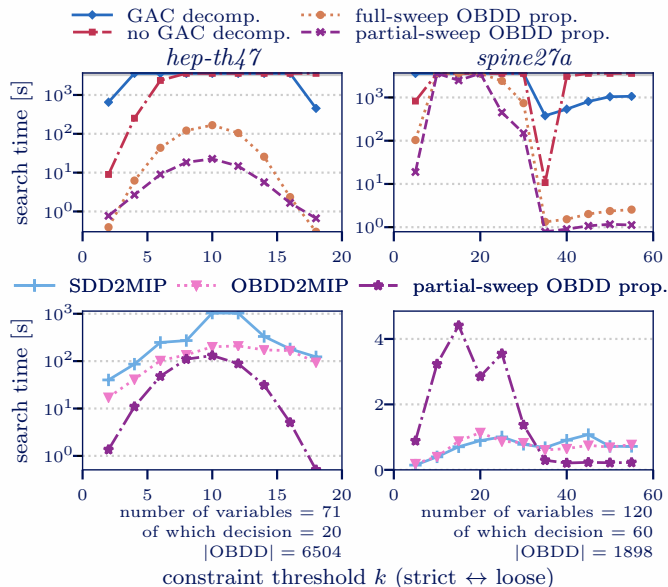
$$P(\phi_e \mid \sigma' = \{d_a, d_c\}) \geq \theta$$



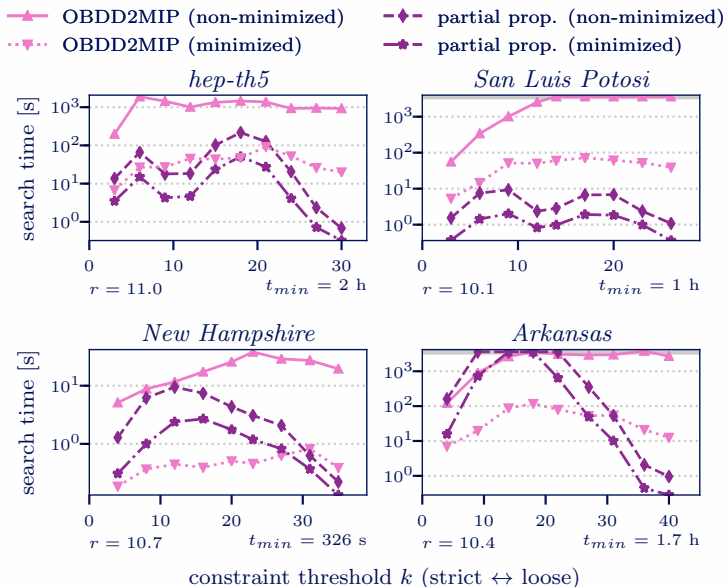
Adnan Darwiche. *On the tractable counting of theory models and its application to belief revision and truth maintenance*. JANCL, 2001



# SCMD propagator vs existing methods



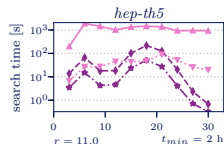
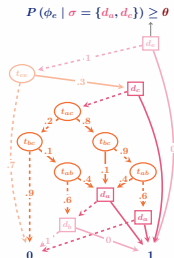
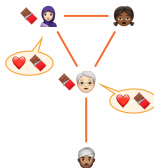
# Scalability of SCMD propagator vs MIP



# Main contribution

A new global constraint propagator for Stochastic Constraints on Monotonic Distributions (SCMDs) which:

- guarantees GAC;
- has linear complexity;
- outperforms existing CP-based methods and complements MIP-based methods;
- scales better with OBDD size than existing MIP-based methods.



**contact:** [a.l.d.latour@liacs.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.l.d.latour@liacs.leidenuniv.nl)

**code & more results:** [github.com/latower/SCMD](https://github.com/latower/SCMD)

**new work:** D. Fokkinga, A.L.D. Latour, M. Anastacio, S. Nijssen, H. Hoos.

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Theme by Joost Schalken. Updated by Pepijn van Heiningen & Anna Louise Latour.

## Acknowledgements

We thank H  l  ne Verhaeghe for her input and suggestions. This work was supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Behrouz Babaki is supported by a postdoctoral scholarship from IVADO through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) grant.